

APLNG 583 Methods of Language Assessment (Fall 2014)

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Office Hours	By Appointment
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Location	114 Keller (except where noted)
Times	TR 1:00-2:15
Course Credits	3

Required Text

Brown, H.D. & Abeywickrama, P. (2010). Language assessment: Principles and classroom practices. Pearson/Longman.

Recommended Text

Bachman, L.F. (2004). Statistical analysis for language assessment. Cambridge University Press.

Course Description

This course is designed as both a theoretical treatment of language testing and a practical “hands-on” introduction to developing and using language tests. The course lays the theoretical foundation for language testing on current conceptions of language proficiency as communicative ability and on classical and modern psychometric techniques. Practical applications explore how to select, develop, administer, and analyze both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced instruments in both research and teaching. Students will also have practice in interpreting and reporting scores.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate the basic concepts of classroom-based and standardized language assessment
2. Design a ‘demonstration’ standardized test
3. Calculate basic statistics for norm referenced and classroom-based testing
4. Score, interpret, and assign grades in a principled manner in classroom-based assessment
5. Select alternative forms of assessment according to classroom-based objectives
6. Design items for classroom-based assessment in listening, speaking, reading, and writing

Grading

Assessment	Percentage
Quizzes (8)	40%
Statistics assignments (4)	20%
Demonstration Standardized Test	10%
Written Assignments (9)	30%

A	94-100	B	83-85.99	C	70-75.99
A-	90-93.99	B-	80-82.99	D	60-69.99
B+	86-89.99	C+	76-79.99	F	< 60

Distribution of Material and Assignments

Date	Material	Assignment (due today)
AUG 26	Assessment in ESL/EFL Programs	(none)
Part One: Fundamentals: Theory and Criteria		
AUG 28	Assessment Concepts and Issues	Read Brown, pp. 1-24
SEP 2	(continued)	Written Assignment: #2 on p. 22 of Brown
SEP 4	Principles of Language Assessment	Quiz; Read Brown, pp. 25-51
SEP 9	(continued)	Written Assignment: #4 on p. 48 of Brown
Part Two: Classroom, Program, and Standardized Tests		
SEP 11	Designing Classroom Language Tests	Read Brown, pp. 52-84
SEP 16	(continued)	Written Assignment: #6 on p. 83 of Brown
SEP 18	Standards Based Assessment	Quiz; Read Brown, pp. 85-102
SEP 23	(continued)	Written Assignment: # 3 on p. 101 of Brown
Part Three: Interpreting, Scoring, Grading, and Analyzing Test Performance		
SEP 25	Standardized Testing	Read Brown, pp. 103-121
SEP 30	Statistics	Stats Assignment (Normality)
OCT 2	Statistics	Stats Assignment (Item Analysis)
OCT 7	Statistics	Stats Assignment (Reliability)
OCT 9	Statistics	Stats Assignment (Correlation)
OCT 14	Statistics	Quiz
OCT 16	Grading and Student Evaluation	Read Brown, pp. 318-340
OCT 21	(continued)	Demonstration Test due today
Part Four: Alternative Methods of Assessment		
OCT 23	Alternatives to Assessment	Quiz; Read Brown, pp. 122-155
OCT 28	(continued) [Guest Lecture]	Written Assignment, # 8 on p. 155 of Brown
OCT 30	(continued) [Guest Lecture]	(none)
Part Five: Item Design		
NOV 4	Assessing Listening	Quiz; Read Brown, pp. 156-182
NOV 6*	(continued)	Written Assignment (TBD)
NOV 11	Assessing Speaking	Read Brown, pp. 183-223
NOV 13	(continued)	Written Assignment (TBD)
NOV 18	Assessing Reading	Quiz; Read Brown, pp. 224-258
NOV 20	(continued)	Written Assignment (TBD)
DEC 2	Assessing Writing	Quiz; Read Brown, pp. 259-291
DEC 4	(continued)	Written Assignment (TBD)
DEC 9	Assessing Grammar and Vocabulary	Read Brown, pp. 292-317
DEC 11	(continued)	Quiz