

Course: Language Testing and Assessment

Course Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to discuss some basic issues in language testing, language assessment, test construction, and test validation.

Weekly program:

Weeks	Date	
One		Course Introduction Definition of terms (Classroom Handout) Measurement: (Bachman, 1990: 18-52)
Two		Evaluation Framework The context of second language evaluation (Genesee & Upshur, 1996: 14-34) A framework for evaluation (Genesee & Upshur, 1996: 35-53)
Three		Uses of language tests Uses of language tests: (Bachman, 1990: 53-80); Test usefulness (Bachman and Palmer, 1996: 17-42); Developing a plan for the evaluation of usefulness (Bachman & Palmer, 1996: 133-156)
Four		Testing Communicative language ability Communicative language ability: (Bachman, 1990: 81-110); Describing tasks: language use in language tests (Bachman & Palmer, 1996: 43-60); Describing language ability: language use in language tests (Bachman & Palmer, 1996: 61-82)
Five		Test development Test method: (Bachman, 1990: 111-159) Overview of test development (Bachman and Palmer, 1996: 85-93); Describing, identifying, and defining: test purposes, task in the TLU domain, characteristics of test takers, and the construct to be measured (Bachman and Palmer, 1996: 95-132)
Six		Evaluating without test Reading: Evaluating without tests Genesee & Upshur, 1996: 76-136) Assignment (2): Data collection using classroom observation, interview, questionnaire
Seven		Evaluation with tests Evaluating with tests Genesee & Upshur, 1996: 139- 196)
Eight		Performance assessment Reading: Second language performance assessment (McNamara, 1996: 6-47)
Nine		Scoring method Scoring method (Bachman and Palmer, 1996: 193-229)
Ten		Reliability Reading: Reliability: (Bachman, 1990: 160-235);
Eleven		Validity Reading: Validation: (Bachman, 1990: 236-295);
Twelve		Computer Based Testing and Computer Adaptive Tests
Thirteen		Standards in language testing Standards in language testing: the state of the art (Alderson, Clapham, & Wall, 1995: 235-260) Modelling performance: opening Pandora's Box (McNamara, 1996: 48-90)
Fourteen		Problems in language testing Some persistent problems and future directions: (Bachman, 1990: 296-360)

References

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