In the name of God

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Testing Course (Updated Syllabus)
Program: Master's Students of ELT
Instructor: Dr. Z. Mirsanjari
E-mail: z.mirsanjari@semnan.ac.ir

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Explain, classify, and distinguish fundamental concepts in language testing, including measurement, assessment, and evaluation.
- ✓ Follow the stages of test development, from writing specifications to pretesting and validation.
- ✓ Analyze test tasks using Bachman's framework of test method facets.
- ✓ Build a validity argument by gathering evidence (content, criterion, construct) and evaluating the consequences and fairness of test use.
- ✓ Manage test delivery, including scoring procedures, estimating reliability, and calculating the Standard Error of Measurement (SEM).
- ✓ Understand the principles of testing reading, writing, speaking, and listening, including the use of analytic and holistic rubrics.
- ✓ Evaluate ethical issues in language testing, including bias, fairness, washback, and the rights of test takers.
- ✓ Explore alternative assessment models, specifically Dynamic Assessment (DA) based on Sociocultural Theory.
- ✓ Critically analyze and discuss current research trends in language testing.

Course Assessment

Component	Weight
1. Class Presentation (Discussion)	20%
2. Testing Project (Assignments)	15%
3. Midterm Examination	25%
4. Final Examination	40%

Tentative Schedule (13 Sessions)

Session	Topic	Key Concepts / Activities	Slides / Materials Used
1	Introduction to Language Testing	Why we test, Kinds of tests, Testing vs. Assessment vs. Measurement.	Session 1
2	Stages of Test Development	Adopt/adapt/develop; Specifications; Item writing; Pretesting & analyzing results.	Session 2
3	Test Methods	Trait vs. Method; Bachman's 5 Facets of Test Method; Item formats (MC, Cloze, C-test).	Session 3

Session	Topic	Key Concepts / Activities	Slides / Materials Used
4	Validity (Part 1)	Foundations; Reliability vs. Validity; Classical types (Content, Criterion-related).	Session 4 & 5 (Part A)
5	Validity (Part 2)	Construct validity; Messick's framework; Validity as an argument; Threats & Bias.	Session 4 & 5 (Part B)
6	Reliability	Sources of error; Classical True Score Theory; Estimating reliability (Split-half, KR-20, Alpha); SEM.	Session 5 (Reliability)
7	**Midterm Exam**	Assessment of Sessions 1-6	*N/A*
8	Testing Reading & Writing	Macro/Micro skills; Authenticity; Item-writing pitfalls; Holistic vs. Analytic scoring.	Reading & Writing
9	Testing Speaking & Listening	Elicitation techniques (Role play, interview); FSI weighted scoring; Listening item writing.	Sessions 7-8 (Speaking/Listening)
10	Dynamic Assessment (DA)	Sociocultural Theory; ZPD; Interventionist vs. Interactionist models.	Session 9 (Dynamic Assessment)
11	Ethics & Fairness	Power, Bias vs. Fairness, Case Histories, Test taker rights, Professional standards.	Ethics

Session	Topic	Key Concepts / Activities	Slides / Materials Used
12	Review of Recent Articles (1)	Discussion of contemporary research in language testing (e.g., Validity, Washback, Technology in Testing). Student-led presentations.	Selected Journal Articles
13	Review of Recent Articles (2) & Project Wrap-Up	Discussion of contemporary research (e.g., DA, Ethics, Local Contexts). Final Q&A on Testing Projects.	Selected Journal Articles

Note: The Final Exam will be scheduled during the university's official final examination period, following Session 13.