The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: Language Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
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<td>LIN</td>
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<td>30054</td>
<td>1, 2004</td>
<td>ONC</td>
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Academic group: OPACS
Academic org: OPACSP
Student contribution band: 1
ASCED code: 070115

STAFFING
Examiner: Jane Kehrwald
Moderator: Francis Mangubhai

SYNOPSIS
Teachers constantly have to make judgements about the proficiency levels of their students. With the present emphasis on the goals of second language teaching being more communicative, teachers have to develop skills beyond pen and paper tests to developing skills in oral and aural tests also. The present emphasis on outcomes-based education also emphasises the need for assessment. This course examines the current knowledge about second language testing. The course will introduce students to the different types of language tests and their purposes. It will look at how language proficiency is measured and the ways scores are interpreted. It will also discuss the criteria for good tests: reliability and validity. Students will have practice in devising their own tests in which they will demonstrate their understanding of the principles of second language testing.

OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- discuss different types of language tests and their purposes;
- describe different types of scales that are used in measurement;
- demonstrate their knowledge in scoring and interpreting test data;
- discuss the importance of reliability and validity in testing;
- demonstrate their understanding of test construction by developing tests of language proficiency.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purposes and types of language measurement</td>
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</table>
2. Measurement scales 10.00
3. Scoring and interpreting data 15.00
4. Test reliability 10.00
5. Test validity 10.00
6. Preparing tests in four macroskills 35.00
7. Preparing tests of grammar and vocabulary 10.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).


REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.


STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
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<td>Tutorial</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>REFLECTIVE JOURNAL</td>
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<td>ESSAY ASSIGNMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEVELOPMENT OF LANG TEST &amp; MAR</td>
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<td>11 Jun 2004</td>
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IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1. Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration. It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available (or at least a grade of C-).

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   A penalty may be applied if an arrangement for an assignment extension has not been negotiated before the due date.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.

5. Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6. Examination information:
   N/A

7. Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   N/A

8. University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm or in the current USQ Handbook.
ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner.

2 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner.

3 The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.

4 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media.

5 The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile.

6 Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.

7 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.

8 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non directed personal study.

9 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1 Over the three assignments and the reflective journal, students will be expected to achieve half of the marks.

2 Students must submit all assignments and the reflective journal.