TSL 623-01: Testing & Evaluation in Second Language Teaching

Credit Hours: 3.0

I. Course Title: Testing & Evaluation in Second Language Teaching

II. Catalog Description: A review of a number of current methods for classroom/standardized language testing and evaluation

III. Purpose: To develop an understanding of the principles and issues involving tests and evaluation in the second language

IV. Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students will have the requisite knowledge and skills to (Coded for Kentucky Experienced Teacher Performance Standards, NTPS; TESOL Standards, TESOL; KERA Initiatives KERA)

A. understand and articulate the fundamental concepts, principles, and concerns of language testing. (NTPS 1, 2; TESOL 1, 2, 4; KERA 1-3)

B. plan and construct language tests. (NTPS 2,10; TESOL 1, 2, 3, 4; KERA 1-3)

C. analyze and interpret the results of language tests. (NTPS 1, 5, 6, 10; TESOL 1, 4; KERA 1-3)

D. explain how test results can be used to describe student performance and/or improve the quality of tests. (NTPS 1, 2, 8, 10; TESOL 1, 4; KERA 1-3)

E. write clearly about language testing. (NTPS 1, 2, 6; TESOL 1, 4; KERA 1-3)

The EPBS Themes – Diversity, Assessment, Literacy/Reading, and Closing the Gap are explored as course topic that students discuss, research, and write literature reviews over to fully explore these topics. They investigate these themes and how they should be implemented in the language classroom. Students design materials and assessment tools that address all of these themes.

V. Content Outline: This course will begin by exploring the theoretical issues of assessment, testing, and evaluation. Next, students will explore the various types of tests created for the different skill areas of language teaching. Based on this information, students will develop tests for second language learners in each of these areas. In addition, students will examine test results and will report on those results as they would to any reporting agency. Students will also examine standardized tests and explore alternative means of assessment.

VI. Instructional Activities: The class will be conducted through a combination of lecture, discussions, and group work. The reading will be moderate to substantial. All students will be required to present an evaluative analysis of assessment tools to the class. Students will complete an in-class exam, a final project, various short written assignments, and an evaluation of assessment tools.
VII. Field, Clinical, and/or Laboratory Experiences: None, except as it pertains to the projects/research that students conduct for class.

VIII. Resources: While there are sufficient resources in the library to undertake some curriculum and syllabus development, students are encouraged to make use of interlibrary loans in order to utilize a larger selection of materials. Please note that this process may be time consuming, so plan accordingly.

IX. Grading Procedures:
Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

- A = 90 – 100 pts.
- B = 89 – 80 pts.
- C = 79 – 70 pts.
- D = 69 – 60 pts.
- E = 59 – 0 pts.

Course Requirements:  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) In class Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B) Testing Instruments</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1) Grammar/Vocabulary</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>2) Reading</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>3) Writing</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>4) Listening</td>
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<td>5) Speaking</td>
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<td>6) Integrated Skills</td>
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<td>C) Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Total Points: 100%

X. Attendance Policy: Students cannot learn without consistent effort throughout the semester. Attendance will be expected in all sessions. Attendance will be taken and recorded in all class sessions. Your grade will be lowered if you have excessive absences. More than one absence is considered excessive. You cannot pass this course if you miss class three times.

XI. Academic Honesty Policy: This policy is provided in the Murray State Student Handbook on page 30, and can be accessed online at the following address:  
http://www.murraystate.edu/secsv/handbook/Handbook.htm

XII. Texts:
American Psychological Association (2001). *Publication manual (5th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author. (Note this text is not for reading but for accurate documentation of all written assignments submitted to the MA TESOL program.)


Other Readings: (provided through the Course Blackboard)

XIII. Prerequisite: None

XIV. Statement of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity: Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, or disability in employment, admission, or the provision of services, educational programs and activities, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. For information regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Office of Equal Opportunity, 270-809-3155.

Details of Course Requirements:

A. In Class Exam - 20%
B. Testing Instruments – 60%
......Students will create a test for each a particular skill area and an integrated test. With each test, students will include a brief discussion concerning the parameters of the test: student population, testing environment, and rationale for the type of measure used. NOTE: this brief rationale may (and probably should) include references, which MUST be listed on a separate reference page and must follow APA guidelines.
......Students will give a brief presentation in class over their testing instrument so that the instrument may be critiqued by the instructor and fellow classmates.
1. Grammar/Vocabulary (10%)
2. Reading (10%)
3. Writing (10%)
4. Listening (10%)
5. Speaking (10%)
6. Integrated Skills (10%)
C. Take-Home Final Exam - 20% - Students will be given a set of statistical data that they must calculate various statistical procedures on and must write up the findings as if reporting to a particular agency. Students will not be allowed to discuss any of their calculations and results with other classmates until all finals are submitted.