COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Title: Foreign Language Testing
Type: Optional
Prerequisite: None
Term: 2nd term
Credit: 3
Lecturers: Assist.Prof.Dr. Meral ÖZTÜRK
Department: ELT

Course Objectives:
The main objective of this course is to introduce you to the basics of testing and to enable you to critically evaluate language tests and test results. More specifically you will:
- be able to distinguish between different kinds of tests
- be able to evaluate the validity of a test
- be able to perform statistical tests to measure the reliability of a given test
- be able to suggest ways to improve the validity and reliability of a test
- be able to score tests, analyse and interpret test results
- be able to evaluate tests of overall linguistic ability (i.e. cloze, c-test, dictation)
- be able to evaluate tests on a language sub-skill (e.g. grammar, reading, speaking, etc.)
- be aware of the alternative ways of assessment

Course Contents:

Week 1       Introduction
Week 2       Basic Concepts
Reading: chapter 1 in Bailey (1998)

Week 3       Kinds of Tests
Reading: chapter 3 in Hughes (1989)

Week 4       Validity
Reading: chapter 4 in Hughes (1989)

Week 5       Reliability
Reading: chapter 5 in Hughes (1989)

Week 6       Testing Overall Ability (cloze, c-test, dictation)

Week 7       Multiple-Choice Tests & Item Analysis
Reading: chapter 9 in Bailey (1998)

Week 8       Testing Grammar and Vocabulary
Reading: chapter 13 in Hughes (1989)

Week 9       Testing Reading Comprehension
Reading: chapter 11 in Hughes (1989)

Week 10      Testing Listening Comprehension
Reading: chapter 12 in Hughes (1989)

Week 11      Testing Writing Skills
Reading: chapter 9 in Hughes (1989)

Week 12      Testing Speaking Skills
Reading: chapter 10 in Hughes (1989)

Week 13      Alternative Assessment (Performance Tests, Portfolios, Self-Assessment)
Reading: chapters 13 & 14 in Bailey (1998)

Week 14      Revision
Course Material:

You will be given **material to read** each week of the term. You are required to read them before the class. There will be only one reading for a given week, each being a book chapter taken from Hughes (1989) or in some cases Bailey (1998).

In addition to the reading material you will be given a set of **study questions** each week based on the reading material. Study questions are intended to give you a clear and critical understanding of the reading material. You should be prepared to discuss possible answers in class.

The reading material will be made available for photocopying **weekly** in the room on the ground floor. The study questions will be sent through e-mail.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be conducted as a series of class discussions on study questions. There will be no lectures with the exception of the 4th and 5th weeks.

Assessment:

You will be assessed in this course by a take-home exam in mid term and by a sit-in exam at the end of the term. Each will contribute 50% to the final score. The mid-term exam will be set on the 7th week of the term and will be submitted two weeks later (i.e. on the 9th week). The date of the final exam will be specified later.

References: