

בס"ד, שנה"ל תשע"ג

Name of Course: Advanced course in language assessment (M.Ed.)

הערכת הישגים (תואר שני)

Name of Teacher: Dr. Marsha Bensoussan

Number of Hours: Two hours weekly

Type of Course: Interactive lecture (first year, elective)

Course Description: This course examines principles of language testing and evaluation in the digital age. The course will discuss theory and research, arriving at criteria according to which tests can be constructed and evaluated for various purposes. Technical advancements in special testing circumstances, such as helping students with language learning difficulties, will also be explored.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will examine theories of language testing: reading, listening, writing, and speaking.
2. Students will explore criteria for writing good tests.
3. Students will critique and compare existing tests in various media.
4. Students will construct original tests.
5. Students will examine the effects and consequences of tests.

Course Outline:

1. Introduction to language testing: different purposes within the context of pluralistic approaches to assessment across age, culture and subject matter

2. Positive and negative backwash effects of testing on the examinee
3. Types of Validity
4. Types of Reliability
5. Analysis of grading scales and interpretation of scores
6. Technologies of testing: oral/aural (interview, tape and video recorded), computerized, traditional (paper and pencil)
7. Assessing skills
8. Testing formats and question types
9. Significance and use of classroom tests, the teacher as tester
10. Ministry of Education (English Bagrut and Meitzav) regular and special versions for disadvantaged pupils
11. Standardized Testing: National Institute of Testing and Evaluation (NITE: AMIR, computerized AMIRAM), Educational Testing Service (ETS: TOEFL)
12. Authentic and alternative tests, adapting tests to clients in the digital age
13. Ethics of language testing, responsibility of examiners toward the clients and stakeholders, uses and abuses of testing

Methods of Teaching: Class discussion on readings and examination of sample examinations, group projects constructing tests

Course Requirements:

1. Active attendance and participation
2. Assigned and selected readings
3. Critique of existing test
4. Examination on language testing terminology
5. Construction of original language test

Assessment:	10%	English Mastery
	10%	Active participation
	20%	Examination
	30%	Critique of existing test
	30%	Construction of language test

References (* = required reading):

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- * Read, J. (2000). *Assessing vocabulary*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 150-170, 188-221.
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