

**Master of Arts in International Language Education (MILE)**  
**School of Humanities and Social Science**  
**Course syllabus**

**Course code:** MILE5103  
**Course title:** Testing and Assessment  
**Course offered:** Fall 2017-2018  
**Course instructors:** Dr. Benjamin Leung ([Benjamin.Leung@ust.hk](mailto:Benjamin.Leung@ust.hk))

**Course description**

The context and activities/tasks of this course are aimed at raising the students' awareness level of the rudiments of effective assessment of language related performance such as essential global concepts of language testing and assessment as well as practical skills for local language teachers to develop, use and evaluate language tests. Students will also be introduced alternative means for classroom language assessment. Advanced oral presentation as well as basic negotiation, project management, and cooperative teamwork skills are given an opportunity for further development through outside-class preparation and in-class practice in a supportive learning environment.

The teaching/learning approach adopted in this course is in line with the constructivist view and cooperative learning principles. There is a balance of individual efforts and cooperative inter-dependent learning. Hence, the assessment will be contributed equally by individual work and group activities.

**Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)**

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to

1. Understand various types of language test and assessment
2. Develop classroom-oriented language assessment tools
3. Analyse the quality of language tests in terms of validity, reliability, and difficulty
4. Apply appropriate assessment tools for various purposes
5. Conduct classroom-based language assessment fairly and effectively

**Course Schedule**

| Teaching Week<br>(Date, 2017)  | Lecture (Topic)  | Seminars                           |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 (4 Sep.)   | Introduction to assessment   | N/A                                |
| 2 (11 Sep.)  | Validity and reliability   | N/A                                |
| 3 (18 Sep.)  | Test construction and designs  | Forming student-led seminar groups |
| 4 (25 Sep.)  | Alternative assessment   | Quiz on assessment concept         |
| Week 5: No Class (Holiday)—The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival (2 October, Monday) |  |                                    |
| 6 (9 Oct.)   | Evaluation of test quality   | Seminars # 1                       |
| 7 (16 Oct.)  | Assessing specific language skills   | Seminars # 2                       |
| 8 (23 Oct.)  | Feedback and reporting   | Seminars # 3                       |
| 9 (30 Oct.)  | Assessing high-level thinking  | Seminars # 4                       |
| 10 (6 Nov.)  | High-stake assessment  | Seminars # 5                       |
| 11 (13 Nov.)   | Presentation of assessment rubric/scale (Individual)   |                                    |
| 12 (20 Nov.)   | Presentation of assessment rubric/scale (Individual) /<br>Assessment task development/research (Group) |                                    |
| 13 (27 Nov.)   | Assessment task development/research (Group)   |                                    |

**Assessments**

There are four assessments for this course:

1. Participation in student-led seminars (15%)
2. Assessment task development/research (35%)
3. Quiz on assessment concepts (15%)
4. Presentation of assessment rubric/scale (35%)

**Three samples of course readings**

- Davies, A. (2014). 1. Fifty years of language assessment. In A. J. Kunnan (Ed.), *The companion to language assessment* (1st ed., pp. 1-19). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
- Fulcher, G., & Davidson, F. (2007). *Language testing and assessment: An advanced resource book*. New York: Routledge.
- Sato, M. (2014). Exploring the construct of interactional oral fluency: Second language acquisition and language testing approaches. *System*, 45, 79-91.