Evaluation and Materials Development

This stream offers courses which revolve around the central issue of language learning/teaching materials. General practices as well as some of the more modern and specific approaches in the development of effective materials for language teaching are discussed using hands on approaches and practices. Importantly, in these courses student also learn how to evaluate materials for adaptation and improved teaching efficacy.

English for Specific Purposes
This three-hour-per-week course is designed to provide students with instruction and practice in English for specific purposes (ESP) from a content-based instruction (CBI) perspective. The latter mentioned approach seems particularly applicable to ESP and for that reason we will try to merge them here. We will also be looking at some of the major sub-fields contained with the scope of ESP (English for academic purposes, Business English, English for law, Test preparation, etc.).

Curricula and Materials Development
This course focuses on getting the students to explore ways for evaluating, adapting and creating materials for language teaching. In this course students firstly review SLA theories in order to build up the criteria and frame work for analyzing and creating materials. Secondly the evaluation of the existing ELT materials will be carried out on the basis of the evaluation criteria that are set up in the first step. Thirdly, on the basis of the result of the material evaluation, the adaptation of the material will be carried out. Finally, in this course, students will create and publish one fine course material for their own teaching.

Principles of Language Testing
Assessment is a corner stone of all instruction and can and should be used to improve the learning that takes place in classrooms. Classroom assessment can help teachers and learners. In addition, high stakes assessment has become a mainstay in education all over the world. We will look at the issues which impact both classroom and large scale assessment. These issues include but are not limited to: Test Anxiety and Outliers This course will help students understand how tests are constructed, normed and validated for all subjects including English as a Foreign Language.

Language in Context
This course looks at the way language use varies according to a wide range of contextual variables. Although this seems like a strong theoretical position to take, the course focuses not so much on the theory but rather the fall out from this important realization. The conceptualization of context as the driving force in language, as is claimed in pragmatics, is a very liberating idea for teachers and materials developers. As such, in the class student learn how to make and use materials that both make use of the contextual variables, but also raise learner awareness of such variables.
Current Issues in EFL/ESL
This course provides overview and analysis of current theories and research findings in the field of English language teaching (ELT) focusing on various contexts of EFL and ESL settings. L2 user perspective, English as an international language point of view, classroom interaction, implications from corpus linguistics as well as recent version and interpretation of major theories of L2 acquisition will be covered through rigorous discussion. The course is also designed to help the student practice research with critical insights earned from the discussion.

Research Methodology
This class introduces and reviews some of the major approaches to conducting research in the field of TESOL. We review both qualitative and quantitative methods and give the students opportunities to move through all the stages in the research process during the course. In this way, the course is practically-focused. It is conceived as a workshop type of course for students with a little more experience in the MA. In the class students will bring in their ideas for research and will be guided through the process of turning an idea into a valid and useful research project.