

# 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.

## **Testing and Evaluation**

Studies practical aspects of language testing: examines purposes and types of language tests in relation to theories of language use and language teaching goals; discusses testing practices and procedures related to language teaching and language research; and reviews a number of English tests all over the world. Possibly studies the planning, writing, and administration of tests, (basic descriptive statistics, and test analysis). Re-visits reliability and validity concepts over the semester and tests of English language teachers and oral proficiency will be used as example contexts.

## **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.

## **ESL/EFL Program Evaluation**

To evaluate a program of study we must look at many factors. Firstly did we accomplish what we set out to do? What were our goals and how could our efforts be measured and compared? Finally, how to determine what learners need and how do we come to know that? How does one class compare with other available options? What can be done to improve a system? Do the objectives of an EFL focus differ that much from an ESL one? What benefits have learners gained? What was their proficiency before they started, during and after completing a syllabus? Was anything inappropriate or inefficient? We will look at answering these questions and more by examining different case studies. Student experience and observations will springboard us into class discussions and debate about the pros and cons of certain approaches. Analytical and skeptic minds are invited to contribute and develop perspective. You will be expected to pre-read excerpts from articles and form your own opinion. Homework also involves organizing your thoughts and writing short summaries of content covered in class. Final assignment will be an analysis of a program you took part in as a student or teacher.

## **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.