This class is an introduction to the technique, practice, and history of language testing. During the first several weeks of class, I will provide introductory lectures on some of the basic technical aspects of language testing – procedures with which you must be familiar in order to understand the central concepts of the field: reliability and validity. The remainder of the class will involve the discussion of the assigned readings and videos. The issues presented in the readings and videos will be supplemented by practice in the resolution of practical language testing problems.

**Required Reading/Viewing**

**Text**


**Videos on the Resources in Language Testing Website**

[http://www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/ltest/ltrfile/ltrframe.html](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/ltest/ltrfile/ltrframe.html)

1. Reliability
   - Alan Davies
2. Validity
   - Bernard Spolsky
3. Test Impact
   - Elana Shohamy
4. Test Specifications
   - Charles Alderson
5. Writing Test Items
   - Charles Stansfield
6. Pretesting
   - J.D. Brown
7. Testing Listening
   - Gary Buck
8. Testing Speaking
   - Glenn Fulcher
9. Testing Reading
   - Caroline Clapham
10. Testing Writing
    - Liz Hamp-Lyons
11. Statistics
    - Fred Davidson
12. Testing for Specific Purposes
    - Dan Douglas

**Articles** at [http://www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/ltest/ltrfile/ltrframe.html](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/ltest/ltrfile/ltrframe.html)


**From Purdue Libraries e-journals:**


**Class Requirements**

Your grade in the course will be determined by your grades on [1] an average of grades on your homework assignments (15%), [2] your written summary/synthesis of selected Language Testing Videos (15%), [3] your language test website presentation (20%), and [4] your final paper (50%).

**Summaries of Video Topics**

Provide a discussion/summary/synthesis of selected video topics presented on the website “Resources in Language Testing”. Go to the website [http://www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/ltest/ltrfile/ltrframe.html](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/ltest/ltrfile/ltrframe.html) and click on “video”. These videos will provide you with an introduction to the topics covered and may provide you with some ideas about topics to pursue in subsequent assignments. Listen to ALL 12 of the videos, but limit your discussion/summary/synthesis to three or four selected topics. Choose any three or four that you find particularly interesting. In preparation for your discussion/summary/synthesis, you may want to augment the information provided in the videos with additional background reading. Do not hesitate to discuss the possibilities with me. I will gladly provide you with additional resources. Go to the website and get started as soon as possible. Limit your discussion to no more than 2,500 words.
**Language Testing Website Presentations**

There are many websites that have information about language tests. Examine information contained on a site that includes either a complete or sample practice test and discuss and evaluate the characteristics of the test. You will have about 25 minutes for your entire presentation. Provide a handout for the class that includes an abstract and a written summary/critique of no more than 1000 words to me.

**Language Testing Project**

Fifty percent of your final grade is dependent on your completion of a paper that addresses a language testing issue of your choice. The paper must be based on research; that is, you must collect and analyze subject responses or analyze subject responses in an existing database. Your paper should follow a standard journal format and must include the following sections: abstract, literature review (background for the study), research questions, methodology, results, discussion, references. The paper should be double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. The paper must not exceed 20 pages in length. Assuming that you are all going to conduct excellent studies and write excellent papers, you are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract of your paper for presentation at the next Midwestern Association of Language Tester’s (MwALT) Annual Meeting.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>08/25</td>
<td>Introduction – Lecture: Terms and Issues  <em>Readings</em>: Phelps, Gladwell, Brindley</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>09/01**</td>
<td>Lecture: Measurement Scales  <em>Readings</em>: Porter, McNamara (2001)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>09/08</td>
<td>Lecture: Measures of Central Tendency  <em>Readings</em>: Frary</td>
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<td><strong>HW1 – Due Monday, 9/15</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>09/15</td>
<td>Lecture: Correlation &amp; Reliability  <em>Readings</em>: Messick, Rudner</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>09/22</td>
<td>Discussion of Language Testing Videos –  <em>Video Summary – Due Friday, 9/26</em></td>
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<td><strong>HW2 – Due Friday, 10/3</strong></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/06</td>
<td>Practice scales – writing – TSE</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/13**</td>
<td><em>Readings</em>: Anghoff, Cronbach &amp; Meehl</td>
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<td><strong>HW3 – Due Monday, 10/20</strong></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>MW: 1 – 3</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/03</td>
<td>MW: 4 – 6</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>MW: 7 – 9</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>MW: 10, 20</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>Reading: Shohamy</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Vacation – no class Wednesday and Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/01</td>
<td>Oral reports on language testing websites</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/08</td>
<td>Oral reports on language testing websites</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>Final papers due // 12/17 // 1:00 pm // ESL Office</td>
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Note: * the schedule may change, depending on our ability to work through the assigned material  
** week 2 & 8, no class on Monday