

# University of Memphis Spring 2024

## ENGL 4532—Skills, Approaches, and Assessment in ESL

### Syllabus

**Class Day/Time:** WEB  
**Instructor:** Dr. Emily Thrush

**Office:** Patterson 401D  
**E-mail:** ethrush@memphis.edu

**Office Hours:** Monday 4:00-5:00 and by appointment

### ***Description***

The course introduces approaches to evaluation and means of assessment of language skills, with special emphasis on English as a Second Language. Specifically, it examines authentic assessments in contrast with standardized assessment and provides students with a range of assessment tools to be used in the future. The course will include readings, interactive lecture, discussion, group work, field research, presentations, and reports to explore the various variables that affect learners' performance on tests such as test formats, cultural background, linguistic skills, and so forth. Ultimately, students will gain a better understanding of the complexities of assessment of English language learners and how these can be faced in a language classroom.

### ***Learning Outcomes***

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Use basic ESOL terminology.
- Provide criteria for an effective assessment tool.
- Define differences between standardized and alternative assessment tools.
- Develop an understanding of various formal and informal means of evaluating language skills.
- Develop appropriate evaluation tools for various language skills.
- Explain how language learners can be assessed regarding their language proficiency skills.
- Identify and use accommodations for ESL students on standardized tests.
- Develop means of assessing content knowledge for students with limited language skills.

### ***Required Texts***

- Brown, H. Douglas, and Priyanvada Abeywickrama. *Language Assessment: Principles and Classroom Practices*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. White Plains, NY: Pearson ESL, 2010. (ISBN-10: 0138149313)

### ***Policy on Participation***

You are accountable for submitting work on its assigned due date to receive full credit..

## ***Policy on Late Papers***

Due dates for assigned work are clearly noted on the course schedule. All work will be submitted through the Canvas website.

## ***Policy on Email Communications***

Official communications from the instructor will only be made to a [username@memphis.edu](mailto:username@memphis.edu) address or from the Canvas website. Email is the best means of contacting the professor outside of class sessions; do allow me 24 hours to respond to your message. Please be mindful of keeping a professional and respectful tone in your email messages.

## ***Policy on Academic Honesty***

The University of Memphis Code of Student Conduct identifies cheating, plagiarism, forgery, and falsification as acts of academic misconduct. The guiding principle of academic honesty is that your submitted work is your own with accurate attributions to, and citations of, others' work where appropriate. Academic misconduct will result in failure on the assignment or other consequences as per university policy, which can include failure in the course, suspension, and/or expulsion from the university. See the Office of Judicial and Ethical Programs website for full descriptions of academic misconduct and its consequences.

## ***Students with Disabilities***

Any student who may need class accommodations based on the impact of a disability is encouraged to speak privately with the instructor to discuss those specific needs. Students with disabilities should also contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) at 110 Wilder Tower, 678-2880. DRS coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

## ***The Center for Writing and Communication (CWC)***

The CWC serves all members of the University of Memphis community (undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff) as they work to become successful writers and speakers. CWC consultants are trained in writing- and speech-tutor methodology and can provide one-on-one feedback on any writing or speech in any stage of development. While the CWC welcomes the opportunity to assist clients with their writing and/or speech, it does not function as an editing service. The CWC is located on the first floor of Ned R. McWherter Library. The CWC welcomes walk-ins but appointments are strongly recommended, especially during the busiest times of the semester (mid-terms and finals). Visit <http://www.memphis.edu/cwc/> to schedule an appointment online.

## ***Format for Assignments***

Assignments submitted electronically should be in .doc, .docx, richtext or .txt formats. Name your electronic submissions as follows: *YourlastnameMod\_ (SmithMod1.doc for example)*

## ***Policy on Grade of Incomplete***

A grade of “I” will be awarded only when all but a minor portion of the course work has been satisfactorily completed and only at the discretion of the instructor. An “I” will not be awarded to a student who has not submitted work according to the assigned due dates during the course of the semester. An “I” will convert to an “F” as per University policy.

## ***Assignments***

Course materials and assignments can be accessed through <https://elearn.memphis.edu>. All assignments (with the exception of quizzes and other in-class activities) should be submitted by 11:59p.m. on the due date

Response Papers on Assigned Readings 5@10%	50
Discussion Board	10
Project presentation	20
Final Exam	20

## ***Grading***

Please note that all assignments should be done in a professional manner exemplifying work at the senior level. Also, please remember that late work will not be accepted.

97-100 = A+	88-90 = B+	78-80 = C+	68-70 = D+	
93-96=A	84-87 = B	74-77 = C	64-67 = D	0-60 = F
89-92 = A-	81-83 = B-	71-73 = C-	61-63 = D-	

## **Class Schedule**

This schedule is subject to revision. Such revisions will be discussed in class. You are responsible for keeping track of scheduled revisions. All assigned reading and writing is to be completed before the date of our class.

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Readings Due</b>
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to the Course	
	Types and Purposes of Assessment Assessment of Language Learners to Achieve Educational Equity	
January 22 <sup>rd</sup>	Principles of Assessment—	Chap. One of Brown and Abeywickrama

	Practicality, Reliability, Validity, Authenticity, Washback	View this Video by Steve Kaufmann: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_uvIjPh7TU">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_uvIjPh7TU</a> Quiz 1
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Applying Principles to Evaluating Classroom Tests	Chap. Two of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 2 Writing Assignment 1
Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Designing Classroom Language Tests	Chap. Three of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 3
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Standards-Based Assessment	Chap. Four of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 4
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Standardized Testing	Chap. Five of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 5
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Alternative Assessment	Chap. Six of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 6 <b>Writing Assignment 2</b>
<b>Spring Break: March 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup></b>		
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Assessing Listening	Chap. Seven of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 7
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Assessing Speaking	Chap. Eight of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 8 Writing Assignment 3
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Assessing Reading	Chap. Nine of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 9
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Assessing Writing	Chap. Ten of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 10 Writing Assignment 4
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Assessing Grammar and Vocabulary	Chap. Eleven of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 11
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Grading and Student Evaluation	Chap. Twelve of Brown and Abeywisckrama Quiz 12
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Final Exam Due	Final Exam Due