Second Language Assessment (REQ / 3 cr.)

Instructor: Prof. Hitoshi Nishizawa (Please call me Hitoshi /hɪˈtoʊʃi/)
Email: hnishiza@reitaku-u.ac.jp
Office hours: By appointment (I am fine with meeting outside of general business hours).

Course Dates

10/6 (Sun. 10:00-17:00)	10/27 (Sun. 10:00-17:00)	12/1 (Sun. 10:00-17:00)
1/12 (Sun. 10:00-17:00)	2/9 (Sun. 10:00-17:00)	

Note: Additional online work equivalent to **6 hours** will be provided.

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of language assessment concepts, techniques, and tools to facilitate valid and reliable assessment in the classroom. The course will also provide students with knowledge to evaluate and critique language tests which includes high-stakes tests (e.g., TOEIC). We will discuss how classroom assessment is (or should be) different from high-stakes tests. Students will have an opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in class. The course will be student-centered. Thus, active participation is expected and highly encouraged.

Key Course Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:
1. Demonstrate understanding of the key concepts of language assessment **(DP 6, 9)**
2. Critically evaluate language assessment methods **(DP 4, 6, 7, 9)**
3. Create valid and reliable language assessments **(DP 4, 6, 8, 9)**
4. Utilize technologies to create language tests **(DP 4, 6)**
5. Analyze and interpret test results **(DP 4, 6)**
6. Provide feedback to facilitate learning **(DP 4, 5, 6)**

Tentative Course Schedule

Session	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1. (10/6)	Principles of language assessment ● Validity ● Fairness ● Justice ● Types of test ● Reliability ● Washback ● Practicality ● Item analysis	**Required** Brown & Abeywickrama (B&A) Ch. 1, 2 *Optional* Brown & Trace (2017) Carr (2011) Ch. 15-16	**Pre-class** None **Post-class** Item analysis
2. (10/27)	Test development ● Test purpose ● Test specifications ● Test tasks ● Test administration	**Required** B&A Ch. 3, 11 *Optional* Jones (2020) Haladyna et al. (2002)	**Pre-class** Test specifications **Post-class** Test specifications (revision)

		Readings	In-class activities
3. (12/1)	Skill assessment I ● Grammar ● Vocabulary ● Reading ● Listening	**Required** B&A Ch. 6, 8, 10 *Optional* Batty (2020) Purpura (2013) Beglar & Nation (2013) Isbell & Sakai (2022)	**Pre-class** Sample item writing **Post-class** Sample item writing (revision)
4. (1/12)	Skill assessment II ● Pronunciation ● Speaking: presentation, interaction ● Writing ● Rubrics	**Required** B&A Ch. 7, 9 *Optional* Ockey (2009) Nakatsuhara et al. (2020) Kuiken & Vedder (2020) Galaczi & Taylor (2020) Crusan (2013)	**Pre-class** Sample item/rubrics development **Post-class** Sample item/rubrics development (revision)
5. (2/9)	Alternative assessment and feedback ● Self- and peer-assessment ● Portfolios ● Checklist ● Can-do lists ● Project report	**Required** B&A Ch. 12 *Optional* Brown (2013; sections TBA)	**Pre-class** TBA **Post-class** Final project

(partial row at top): ● Scoring

Required textbook
Brown, H. D., & Abeywickrama, P. (2018). *Language assessment: Principles and classroom practices* (3rd ed.). **ISBN-10: 0134860225**

Assignments and Assessment
● Participation & Collaboration **(10%)**

● Assignments **(50%)**

● Final project **(40%)**

Note: Points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late.

Evaluation
Letter grade

Instructor Bio
Hitoshi Nishizawa (Ph.D.) is Assistant Professor at Reitaku University. He has taught English to students of various levels and backgrounds. His current research interests are in language assessment and psycholinguistics. His work has appeared in prominent international journals

including *Language Testing*, *Applied Psycholinguistics*, and *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*.