

Studies on Course Design and Material Evaluation

By P. Y. Lin & S. F. Su

Summer, 2008

Tue. 1:30-4:40 p.m. & Fri. 9:00-12:10 a.m.

Course Description:

This course aims to provide students with the major approaches of language syllabus/curriculum/course design and the guidelines for analyzing, evaluating, and developing EFL materials. Students are to survey and compare different English language syllabus/curriculum/course designs and various kinds of English teaching materials used in Taiwan and some other Asian countries, so as to equip them with the ability to design a language program/language course and enable them to select, adapt and hopefully, write teaching materials for EFL courses as well.

Activities:

Lecture; oral presentation; discussion; survey; design of /evaluation on different English language syllabus/curriculum/course and teaching materials.

Requirement & Grading:

A. S. F. Su: (Course Design)

1. Regular attendance and active participation in classroom discussion. (10%/20%)
2. Oral presentation as well as some critical comments on the papers or the issues concerned. (20%/0%)
3. Group project on any of the following: (20%/30%) (Written work)
 - (1) Conduct a need survey with a particular group.
 - (2) Design a language program for a particular group of students (e.g. an adult English program at YMCA).
 - (3) Evaluate a language program/a teacher training program.
 - (4) Make a critical comment on any article inside the reading materials.

B. P. Y. Lin: (Material Evaluation)

1. Regular attendance and active participation in classroom discussion. (20%)
2. Group project on analyzing two volumes/sets of English textbooks (30%)

Textbook & Supplementary Materials:

1. Richards, J. C. (2001). Curriculum Development in Language Teaching, Cambridge University Press.
2. Selected readings from reference books, related articles, and other related documents or data.

References

A. Books (books marked with asterisks are major references of the course)

- Brown H. D. (2001). *Teaching by Principles: An Interactive Approach to Language Pedagogy*. Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.
- * Brown, J. D. (1995). *The Elements of Language Curriculum: A Systematic Approaches to Program Development*. Heinle & Heinle publishers.
- Brumfit. C. (ed.). (1984). *General English Syllabus Design*. OUP.
- Byrd, P. (ed.) (1995). *Material Writer's Guide*. Heinle & Heinle publishers.
- Clark, J. (1987). Curriculum Renewal in School Foreign Language Learning. ch. 4. OUP.
- * Cunningsworth, A. (1995). *Choosing Your Coursebook*. Heinemann.
- * Dubin, F. & Olshtain, E. (1997). *Course Design: Developing Programs and Materials for Language Learning* 9th ed.. Cambridge U. Press.
- * Ellis, R. (2003). *Task-based Language Learning and Teaching*. Oxford U Press.
- Feez, S. (1998). *Text-based Syllabus Design*. New South Wales. AMES.
- Grant, N. (1987). *Making the Most of Your Textbook*. Longman.
- Hutchinson, T. & Waters, A. (1987). *English for Specific Purposes: A Learning-Centered Approach*. Cambridge U. Press.
- Larsen-Freeman, D. (2000). *Technique and Principles in Language Teaching* 2nd ed. Oxford U. Press.
- Long, M. H. & Richards, J. C. (eds). (1987). *Methodology in TESOL: A Book of Reading*. Singapore: Harper & Row.
- Lunch, B. K. (1996). *Language Program Evaluation: Theory and Practice*. CUP.
- Markee, N. (1997). *Managing Curriculum Innovation*. CUP.
- * Nunan, D. (1993). *Syllabus Design* 4th ed. Oxford U. Press.
- Nunan, D. (1992). *The Learner-Centered Curriculum* 5th ed. Cambridge U. Press.
- Nunan, D. (1989). *Designing Tasks for the Communicative Classroom*. Cambridge U. Press.
- Nunan, D. (1991). *Language Teaching Methodology*. Prentice-Hall International.
- Nunan, D. (1999). *Second Language Teaching & Learning*. Heinle & Heinle.
- Richards, J. C. & Rodgers, T. S. (2001) *Approaches and Methods in Language Teaching: A Description and Analysis* 2nd ed. Cambridge U. Press.
- Tomlinson, B. (ed.). (1998). *Materials Development in Language Teaching*. Cambridge U. Press.
- * White, R. (1993) *The ELT Curriculum: Design, Innovation and Management* 4th ed.. Blackwell.
- Woodward, T. (2001). *Planning Lessons and Courses: Designing Sequences of Work for the Language Classroom*. CUP.
- * Yalden, J. (1987). *The Communicative Syllabus: Evolution, Design and*

Implementation. Prentice-Hall International.

Yalden, J. (1996). *Principles of Course Design for Language Teaching*. Cambridge U. Press.

B. Articles

Breen, M., Candlin, C. & Waters, A. Communicative materials design: Some basic principles. *RELC Journal* 10, 1-13

Breen, M. (1985). Authenticity in the language classroom. *Applied Linguistics*, 6/1: 60-70.

Brindley, G. (1989). The roles of the need analysis in adult ESL programme design. In R. K. Johnson (ed.). *Second Language Curriculum*. CUP.

Clarke, D. F. (1989). Materials adaptation: Why leave it all to the teachers? *ELT Journal*, 43/2: 133-141

Ellis, R. (1997). The empirical evaluation of language teaching materials. *ELT Journal*, 51/1: 36-42.

Peacock, M. (1997). The effect of authentic materials on the motivation of EFL learners. *ETL Journal*, 51/1: 144-153.

Sheldon, L. E. (1988). Evaluation ELT textbooks and materials. *ELT Journal*, 42/4: 237-246.

Skierso, A. (1991). Textbook selection and evaluation. In M. Celce-Murcia (ed.). *Teaching English as a Secondary or Foreign Language* (2nd ed.). Boston Heinle & Heinle Publishers.

C. Document and Data (available syllabus & checklist for Material Evaluation)

Curriculum Syllabus:

English Language syllabus (Secondary) (1991). Curriculum Planning Division, Ministry of Education, Singapore.

Syllabuses for Primary Schools: English Language (Primary1-6). (1997). The Curriculum Development Council, The Education Department, Hong Kong.

Syllabus for Secondary School: Syllabus for English (Forms I-V). (1983).

Syllabus for Secondary Schools: Use of English (advanced Supplementary Level). (1999). The Curriculum Development Council, The Education Department, Hong Kong.

國民中學英語課程標準。九十三年發布。教育部。

普通高級中學英文科暫行課程綱要。九十五年發布。教育部。

國民教育階段九年一貫英語科暫行課程綱要。(A版 暨 B版)。

蘇郁涵。(1998)。工職英文之需求調查與教材評估準則。國立政治大學語言學研究所碩士論文。

Checklist for Textbooks Evaluation

- Chen, T. Y. (1990). *A simplified checklist for evaluation Textbooks for Elementary schools in Taiwan, R.O. C.*
- Cunningsworth, A. (1984). *Specified aims and analyzing the learning teaching situation &a quick-reference checklist for evaluation and selection.*
- Grant, N. (1987). *Choosing a textbook: questionnaire part 1,2,3.*
- Halliway, S. (1992). *A checklist from Teaching English in Primary School.*
- Sheldon, L.E. (1987). *A textbook evaluation sheet.*
- Shih, Y. H. (1999). *A checklist for Evaluation Textbooks for Elementary schools in Taiwan, R. O. C.*
- Skierso, A. (1991). *An evaluation checklist for Textbook Selection and Evaluation.*
- Sutherland, J. (1999). *A checklist for Evaluation Textbooks.*
- Williams, D. (1983). *Sample checklist for evaluation.*

Tentative Course Schedule: (7/4-7/29 Course Design; 8/1-8/22 Material Evaluation)

1. 7/4 Fri. Introduction & Orientation
The origins of language curriculum development (1)
2. 7/8 Tue. From syllabus design to curriculum development (2)
The evolution of syllabus design/Context and function (Yalden)
3. 7/11 Fri. Language functions in applied linguistics (Yalden)
Product-oriented syllabuses/Process-oriented syllabuses (Nunan)
4. 7/15 Tue. Language program development (Yalden)
Designing a communicative syllabus (I) (Yalden)
5. 7/18 Fri. The proportional approach (Yalden)
Designing a communicative syllabus (II) (Yalden)
6. 7/22 Tue. Needs analysis (3)
Situation analysis (4)
7. 7/25 Fri. Planning goals and learning outcomes (5)
Course planning and syllabus design (6)
Providing for effective teaching (7)
8. 7/29 Tue. Guest speaker's lecture
Approaches to evaluation (9)
9. 8/1 Fri. The role and design of instructional materials (8)
10. 8/5 Tue. Cunningsworth, A. (1995) *Choosing Your Coursebook*. Heinemann.
Ch. 1: Choosing course books—the essentials
Ch. 10: Communicative course books
Ch. 11: ESP materials
11. 8/8 Fri. Skierso's "Textbook selection and evaluation" (1991)
Byrd's "Textbook: Evaluation for selection and analysis for implementation" (2001)
Breen's "Authenticity in the language classroom" (1985)
Related checklists for textbook evaluation
12. 8/12 Tue. Guest speaker's lecture
13. 8/15 Fri. Adapting published materials (Cunningsworth, 1995, Ch. 12)
Adapting materials (McDonough, J. & Shaw, C. ed. 2003. *Materials and Methods in ELT: A teacher's guide 2nd ed.* Blackwell Publishing.)
14. 8/19 Tue. Group projects on textbook evaluation
15. 8/22 Fri. Group projects on textbook evaluation