School of Education

EDST5443
Assessment for Learning: From Theory to Practice

Term 2 2021
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IMPORTANT:
For student policies and procedures relating to assessment, attendance and student support, please see website, https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/

The School of Education acknowledges the Bedegal people as the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we learn and teach.
1. LOCATION

Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture
School of Education
EDST5443 Assessment for Learning (6 units of credit)
Term 2 2021

2. STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Course Convenor: Dr Dennis Alonzo
Office Location: G41, Morven Brown Building
Email: d.alonzo@unsw.edu.au
Availability: By email

3. COURSE DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Assessment for Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credit Points</td>
<td>6 units of credit (uoc)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workload Includes 150 hours including class contact hours, readings, class preparation, online class participation, assessment, follow up activities, etc.

Schedule http://classutil.unsw.edu.au/EDST_T2.html#EDST5443T2

SUMMARY OF COURSE

In this course, you will explore the underlying philosophy and rationale for assessment for learning, and the key approaches and problems in the implementation of such classroom-based assessment, including the implications for the role of the teacher-as-assessor, the nature of effective feedback, how to involve students in self and peer assessment, and the conflicts between such assessment systems and those emphasizing large scale testing for student selection and/or school accountability. This course focuses on developing your confidence and expertise in using assessment to effectively support student learning.

THE MAIN WAYS IN WHICH THE COURSE HAS CHANGED SINCE LAST TIME AS A RESULT OF STUDENT FEEDBACK:

- Resources are updated with current research/understanding of assessment for learning. Also, there are resources added for higher education context to address the needs of academics who are enrolled in this course.
- Group work to increase engagement has been added.
- Inclusion of supplementary lecture every fortnight.
### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Assessment/s</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Identify, describe and critically evaluate the key assumptions underlying assessment for learning locally and internationally;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Demonstrate a sound understanding of key theoretical, practical and sociocultural problems and approaches in the assessment for learning, in particular debates around trustworthiness and consistency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Apply their knowledge and understanding of assessment for learning processes to the evaluation and improvement of assessment situations in their own context.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Assessment/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 | Advanced disciplinary knowledge and practices
Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the field of education as it relates to their specialist area of study, and the ability to synthesize and apply disciplinary principles and practices to new or complex environments. | 1,2 |
| 2 | Research-based learning
Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of research-based learning and the ability to plan, analyse, present implement and evaluate complex activities that contribute to advanced professional practice and/or intellectual scholarship in education. | 1,2 |
| 3 | Cognitive skills and critical thinking
Demonstrate advanced critical thinking and problem-solving skills | 1,2 |
| 4 | Communication, adaptive and interactional skills
Communicate effectively to a range of audiences, and be capable of independent and collaborative enquiry and team-based leadership | 1,2 |
| 5 | International outlook
Demonstrate an understanding of international perspectives relevant to the educational field | 1,2 |
| 6 | Ethical and responsible professional practice
Demonstrate an advanced capacity to recognise and negotiate the complex and often contested values and ethical practices that underlie education | 1,2 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assessment/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2.3</td>
<td>Expand understanding of how students learn using research and workplace knowledge.</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.2</td>
<td>Develop teaching activities that incorporate differentiated strategies to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2</td>
<td>Design and implement learning and teaching programs using knowledge of curriculum, assessment and reporting requirements.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>Develop a culture of high expectations for all students by modelling and setting challenging learning goals.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Plan and implement well-structured learning and teaching programs or lesson sequences that engage students and promote learning.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7.2</td>
<td>Plan for appropriate and contextually relevant opportunities for parents/carers to be involved in their children’s learning.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3</td>
<td>Develop and apply a comprehensive range of assessment strategies to diagnose learning needs, comply with curriculum requirements and support colleagues to evaluate the effectiveness of their approaches to assessment.</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.3</td>
<td>Select from an effective range of strategies to provide targeted feedback based on informed and timely judgements of each student’s current needs in order to progress learning.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.2</td>
<td>Understand and participate in assessment moderation activities to support consistent and comparable judgements of student learning.</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.2</td>
<td>Use student assessment data to analyse and evaluate student understanding of subject/content, identifying interventions and modifying teaching practice.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.2</td>
<td>Report clearly, accurately and respectfully to students and parents/carers about student achievement, making use of accurate and reliable records.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.2</td>
<td>Use the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and advice from colleagues to identify and plan professional learning needs.</td>
<td>1,2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. **RATIONALE FOR THE INCLUSION OF CONTENT AND TEACHING APPROACH**

Assessment for learning (AfL) occurs when assessment is conceptualized and implemented as an integral component of learning and teaching. It involves teachers designing and implementing their own classroom-based assessment tasks, actively engaging learners in self and peer assessment and incorporating critical but constructive feedback into the assessment cycle. Black & William (1998) and Hattie (2008) have convincingly demonstrating the learning gains that can be achieved through well-focused teacher-based formative assessment, demonstrating no other strategy has such potential for enhancing student learning across age levels and in different contexts. However, there are a number of issues and complexities within the classroom practice of AfL which challenge teachers and students, hence the importance of this course.

5. **TEACHING STRATEGIES**

We learn best when we are engaged and given an appropriate level of challenge; when our prior experience and knowledge is valued and built upon; when we are expected to take responsibility for our own learning; and when we work collaboratively with our peers. Thus, teaching strategies used during the course will include:

- Small online group cooperative learning to demonstrate the use of group structures to address learning and teaching goals
- Structured occasions for reflection on learning to allow you to reflect critically on and improve teaching practice
- Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of method content.
- Other online learning tasks through short test, self-assessment, video, forums, readings and web links on the Moodle.

All these activities will occur in an online environment that is supportive and inclusive of all learners.
### 6. COURSE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;(May 31 - 6 June)</td>
<td>Understanding assessment for learning: Its underlying philosophy and key principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This session introduces you to the underlying rationale and key assumptions of assessment for learning, the differences between assessment for learning and assessment of learning, the core concepts of norm-referenced, criterion-referenced and standards-referenced assessment and formative/summative assessment, current approaches to AfL locally and internationally and the key conditions for implementing AfL, at the same time creating positive washback for teaching and learning. You will be shown a series of excerpts and/or case studies of AfL practices and interviews with teachers, parents, students and administrators in schools to exemplify the key points and to provide a stimulus for discussion and more systematic input.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Key readings:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplementary online lecture (31 May, 6:00-7:30pm) – Link will be emailed.</strong></td>
<td>Teacher as a student partner: Developing and sharing learning outcomes, success criteria and performance standards (rubrics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;(7-13 June)</td>
<td>This session focuses on developing learning outcomes, success criteria and performance standards. You will develop your skills on how to develop clear and explicit learning outcomes, identify success criteria and write performance descriptions that are aligned to the learning outcomes. You will critic various strategies used for ensuring that students understand what evidence is required for each performance described and how students can effectively use rubrics to improve their learning and enhance achievement. The session will conclude by identifying various ways on how to effectively communicate to students the learning outcomes and rubrics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Key readings:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Higher Education Context**


**Teacher as an assessor: Designing and implementing appropriate and trustworthy assessment strategies and tasks**

This session focuses on planning for the integration of assessment for learning into learning and teaching at every stage of the teaching cycle (lesson, unit, course), developing and adapting sample assessment tasks for their own classes, and developing and/or using standards-based criteria to assess students' development. You will first analyse the characteristics of an effective assessment task by looking several video excerpts of real tasks, then after discussion and further input, complete two activities in which they have to first critique and adapt an existing task, then develop an assessment task and appropriate criteria for their own context.

In addition, this session focuses on the key principles of effective assessment - validity, reliability, practicality, authenticity, as well as concrete concerns such as the issue of juggling sometimes conflicting roles (teacher vs assessor) and how to ensure students do their best whilst at the same time being enabled to make trustworthy assessment judgments. The difference between norm-referenced, criterion-referenced and standards-referenced assessment will also be clarified, and various forms of verification explored, including social moderation and benchmarking.

**Key reading:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
  
**Supplementary online lecture (14 June, 6:00-7:30pm)**  
Differentiated assessment. Education Alberta. Retrieved from [http://education.alberta.ca/media/1233985/7_ch4%20differentiated.pdf](http://education.alberta.ca/media/1233985/7_ch4%20differentiated.pdf) |
**Supplementary online lecture (28 June, 6:00-7:30pm)** |
Teacher as a student partner: Engaging students in self and peer assessment

This session focuses on the critical importance of helping students learn how to assess their own development, and that of their peers, and practical strategies for involving students in self and peer assessment. You will analyse the features of effective student participation in self and peer assessment by discussing several video excerpts of learners undertaking real assessments, then after discussion and further input, complete two activities in which they have to first critique and adapt, then develop an assessment task and appropriate student-oriented criteria for their own context.

Key reading:


Supplementary online lecture (12 July, 6:00-7:30pm)

Teacher as a student partner: Providing high quality feedback/feed forward and reporting student learning

This session focuses on various strategies and techniques for providing appropriate and timely feedback to learners on their development, communicating to other key stakeholders, evaluating the assessment process and outcomes, building an AfL culture in the school, and maintaining effective records of every student's assessment participation and achievement, including samples of student work. You will analyse the characteristics of effective feedback by looking at several video excerpts of teachers giving whole class and individual feedback.

Key readings:


http://www.waikato.ac.nz/tdu/pdf/booklets/6_AssessmentFeedback.pdf


Teacher as a teacher learner: Building a community of teacher learners

This session focuses on how to build a community of teacher learners. You will identify various ways to use assessment information to identify the effectiveness and appropriateness of your classroom practices. Also, you will engage in self-assessment using the teacher AfL competency framework and will identify your professional development needs both in AfL literacy and in curriculum-content knowledge.

Key readings:
### Supplementary online lecture (26 July, 6:00-7:30pm)

**Teacher as a stakeholders’ partner: Enhancing community’s trust and establishing a home-school collaboration**

This session focuses on how to establish a continuing dialogue with stakeholders particularly with the parents and the community as a whole. You will identify various strategies to address each stakeholder’s information need to enhance community trust. More importantly, you will develop various strategies to establish a home-school collaboration to support student learning.

**Key reading:**

### 7. RESOURCES

**Set text**

**General background reading**

**Journal articles and books**
- Assessment Reform Group. 2002. Assessment for learning: 10 principles


Useful Websites

- Assessment and Classroom Learning http://english.unitecnology.ac.nz/resources/resources/classroom_learning.html
- Feedback and Assessment: Educative Assessment http://www.ou.edu/pii/tips/ideas/feedback2.html
- Dynamic Assessment http://dynamicassessment.com/_wsn/page2.html
- Scaffolding Website http://condor.admin.ccny.cuny.edu/~group4/
- Scaffolding as an instruction technique http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/students/learning/lr1scaf.htm
- Scaffolding http://projects.coe.uga.edu/epltt/index.php?title=Scaffolding#What_is_Scaffolding.3F
- Schools, Skills and Scaffolding on the Web http://projects.coe.uga.edu/epltt/index.php?title=Scaffolding#What_is_Scaffolding.3F

8. ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Australian Professional Standards Assessed</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-assessment</td>
<td>1500 words</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>1.2, 1.3, 5.1.3, 5.3.2, 6.1.2.</td>
<td>25 Jun 2021 by 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afl- infused unit of work</td>
<td>4500 words</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>1.2.3., 1.5.2., 2.3.2., 3.1.3., 3.2.2., 3.7.2., 5.1.3., 5.2.3., 5.3.2., 5.4.2., 5.5.2., 6.1.2</td>
<td>13 Aug 2021 by 5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submission of assessments

Students are required to follow their lecturer’s instructions when submitting their work for assessment. All assessment will be submitted online via Moodle by 5pm. Students are also required to keep all drafts, original data and other evidence of the authenticity of the work for at least one year after examination. If an assessment is mislaid the student is responsible for providing a further copy. Please see the Student Policies and Procedures for information regarding submission, extensions, special consideration, late penalties and hurdle requirements etc. https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/

Assessment Details

Task 1: A case study of your assessment practices

Weighting: 1500 words (40%)

Purpose: This task requires you to read and critically reflect on your own assessment practices with reference to the two key readings indicated for Session 1, and at least five other readings from the list of recommended reading. Some or all of the following questions can be used to focus your thinking and/or structure your reflections:

- How has assessment changed in your learning and teaching context in recent years?
- In what ways have your own understandings of, and practices related to, assessment changed and/or need to change?
What factors have caused these changes?
What are the implications of these changes for the relationship between assessment, learning and teaching?
What are the more urgent challenges and issues for you/your colleagues in relation to assessment?

For school leaders, you can use the assessment culture and practices in your school as the basis of your reflection.

**Task 2:** Development of an AfL-infused curriculum unit

**Weighting:** 4500 words (60%)

**Purpose:** This task requires you to take an existing teaching unit from your context and to infuse it with the principles and practices of assessment for learning as discussed throughout the course and related readings. The unit should include:

- A statement of rationale, purpose, and focus
- Details of student learning activities
- Details of assessment activities
- Details of resources to be used
- Reflection and Concluding statement of 1800 words explaining how the unit embodies AfL principles and demonstrates your understanding of key concepts and issues (cite a range of literature) explicitly raised during the course and in your follow up readings.

Alternatively, if you have an innovative assessment practice (original) and you have used it in your class, you can write a paper (3,500 words) to describe it. You need to provide a strong theoretical rationale and discuss its practical applications in improving student learning. You need to provide an empirical evidence to support your claim.

Other alternative assignments may be negotiated.

**For Higher Education Students**

Kindly see the announcement in Moodle.

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**UNSW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

**FEEDBACK SHEET**

**EDST5443 ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING**

Student Name:              Student No.:

**Assessment Task 1:** Self-assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIFIC CRITERIA</th>
<th>(-)</th>
<th>(+)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Understanding of the question or issue and the key concepts involved</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>understanding of the task and its relationship to relevant areas of theory, research and practice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clarity and accuracy in use of key terms and concepts in assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depth of analysis and/or critique in response to the task</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>depth of understanding of key AfL principles, concepts and issues explicitly raised during the course and in your follow up readings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>depth of analysis of specific strengths and weakness of assessment processes and systems including theoretical as well as practical and policy-related issues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clarity and depth of reflection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Familiarity with and relevance of professional and/or research literature used to support response</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>range of research and professional literature on assessment theory to support response</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Structure and organization of response
- appropriateness of overall structure of response
- clarity and coherence of organisation

### Presentation of response according to appropriate academic and linguistic conventions
- clarity, consistency and appropriateness of conventions for quoting, paraphrasing, attributing sources of information, and listing references
- clarity and consistency in presenting tables and diagrams
- clarity and appropriateness of sentence structure, vocabulary use, spelling, punctuation and word length for a personal reflection

### GENERAL COMMENTS

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**Lecturer:**

**Date:**

**Recommended:** /20 (FL PS CR DN HD)  **Weighting:** 40%

**NB:** The ticks in the various boxes are designed to provide feedback to students; they are not given equal weight in determining the recommended grade. Depending on the nature of the assessment task, lecturers may also contextualize and/or amend these specific criteria. **The recommended grade is tentative only, subject to standardisation processes and approval by the School of Education Learning and Teaching Committee.**
UNSW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
FEEDBACK SHEET
EDST5443 ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

Student Name:              Student No.:  
Assessment Task 2: AFL – infused unit of work

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Understanding of the question or issue and the key concepts involved
- understanding of the task and its relationship to relevant areas of
  theory, research and practice
- clarity and accuracy in use of key terms and concepts in assessment

Depth of analysis and/or critique in response to the task
- depth of understanding of measurement principles, concepts and
  issues.
- depth of interpretation of the results of test analysis and specific
  strengths and weaknesses of the test are discussed
- clarity and depth of discussion of the implications for practice.

Familiarity with and relevance of professional and/or research literature
used to support response
- range of research and professional literature on assessment theory
  and practice to support response

Structure and organization of response
- appropriateness of overall structure of response
- clarity and coherence of organisation

Presentation of response according to appropriate academic and
linguistic conventions
- clarity, consistency and appropriateness of conventions for quoting,
  paraphrasing, attributing sources of information, and listing
  references
- clarity and consistency in presenting tables and diagrams
- clarity and appropriateness of sentence structure, vocabulary use,
  spelling, punctuation and word length for a personal reflection

GENERAL COMMENTS

Lecturer:        Date:  
Recommended: /20 (FL PS CR DN HD)  Weighting:  60%

NB: The ticks in the various boxes are designed to provide feedback to students; they are not given equal weight in determining
the recommended grade. Depending on the nature of the assessment task, lecturers may also contextualize and/or amend
these specific criteria. The recommended grade is tentative only, subject to standardisation processes and approval by
the School of Education Learning and Teaching Committee.