“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands, but in seeing with new eyes.” - Marcel Proust

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Prerequisites: ASL 507 or equivalent with a grade of C (74%) or higher.

ASL 312K is a third-semester American Sign Language (ASL) course that emphasizes not only language mastery but also the understanding of Deaf culture, specifically its cultural values, attitudes, beliefs, social norms, and history.

Integrates and refines expressive and receptive skills in American Sign Language (ASL), including recognition of sociolinguistic variation. A practice oriented approach to language acquisition with demonstration of more sophisticated grammatical features of American Sign Language (ASL). Increases fluency and accuracy in finger spelling and numbers. Provides opportunities for interaction within the deaf community. Course requires significant time outside of class.

Course study includes ASL grammatical structures, non-manual behaviors, vocabulary and classifiers, fingerspelling and numbers, communication skills (conversations and discussions), and other language functions. Most of the learning activities are based on the text, Signing Naturally. These activities will include interactive activities such as locating things around the house, complaining, making suggestions and requests, exchanging personal information: life events, and describing and identifying things. Supporting studies include attendance of Deaf events, film and video viewing, ASL literary readings, and other analytical activities.

COURSE RATIONALE: American Sign Language is the language of a sizable minority, estimates range from 500,000 to two million speakers in the U.S. alone. In addition, many Deaf Canadians use ASL. For more information, you can look at this website:
http://library.gallaudet.edu/Library/Deaf_Research_Help/Frequently_Asked_Questions_(FAQs)/Sign_Language/ASL_Ranking_and_Number_of_Speakers.html

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:

1) **SIGNING NATURALLY LEVEL II, STUDENT WORKBOOK AND VIDEOTEXT**, Units 14, 15, 16, & 13. Authors: Smith, Lentz, and Mikos.
2) **COURSE PACKET: ASL 312K** at Speedway Copying, Dobie Mall, 2025 Guadalupe, Suite 140
3) **For Hearing People Only**, Authors: Matthew S. Moore and Linda Levitan, 3rd Edition
4) One 2 GB (minimum) USB Flash Drive
ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM AND MATERIALS:

http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm (practice your skills)
ASLonline1 tutorials: www.laits.utexas.edu/asl506 (sn: asl506 pw: will announce in class)
ASLonline2 tutorials: www.laits.utexas.edu/asl507

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance Policy: Beginning September 1st, participation will be graded in the following manner:

You should plan to attend class faithfully, inasmuch as the material covered in class and participation in class discussion are vital to your performance in this course. Attendance will be taken every class period. You should check periodically with me to ensure that we agree on your number of absences. You are allowed two (2) absences over the course of the semester. For each absence beyond two (2), your final grade will drop by 5%. For example, if you earned an A with a 92 for the course, but you have three (3) absences, your final grade will be a B (87), regardless of the reason. Use your absences as you see fit; however, use them with discretion. These days are given to you to make accommodations for illnesses, doctors’ appointments, observance of religious holy days, etc. A total of three (3) tardies and early departures will be counted as one (1) absence.

The University’s policy on the observance of Religious Holy Days can be found at: http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi07-08/ch04/ch04b.html. Observance of Religious Holy Days: Students must notify instructor at least 14 days prior to holy days; otherwise, it will be counted as absence. http://www.interfaithcalendar.org

It is essential that students make every effort to attend each class on time and be prepared to participate in classroom activities. Attention to classroom activities is imperative.

Homework: Homework assignments are not optional; they are required to help prepare you for class activities/discussions. Students who fail to produce completed assignments the day they are due will have two points deducted from their final grade. **Please bring your Signing Naturally Student Workbook and homework assignments to class everyday.

Classroom Etiquette: Behaviors such as sleeping in class, reading the newspaper, talking/mouthing with classmates, using pagers/cell phones/text messaging devices, listening to iPod music, or doing homework for another class are not acceptable or permitted. This is a skill developing lab course involving group and individual practice and skills development using visual/gestural stimuli.

Social/Cultural Rationale:

Visual Environment: Talking/voicing: This policy is the same as in ASL 506 and 507, this policy will not be reviewed this semester, but will be implemented. The intention of the NO VOICE POLICY is to respect Deaf Culture and maximize the student’s learning during class time. Due to the fact that facial expressions are vital in ASL, gum chewing is not permitted during class. Laptops, iPods, cellular phones, paging devices, radios, CD and tape players/recorders, video cameras and still cameras should not be brought into the classroom without MY written consent. (If you need your cell phone with you please make sure that it is turned off so that it does not disrupt the silence in the classroom.)

**Repeated use of voice may result in the deduction of points in the final score or in being asked to leave the classroom.**

NOTE: Repetition of using voice in class may result in deduction of points and/or the deduction of a letter grade from your final score. If you do not understand me, then PLEASE ask me ANYTIME for clarification.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Pass/Fail grades are not allowed; this course may be taken for a letter grade only.

DEAF CULTURE note: In class, you will rehearse ways of informing the lecturer why you are late, why you are leaving early, and why you missed class. These are not to be viewed as giving excuses but rather viewed as a type of communication within Deaf Culture. So, please apply this situation each time you confront it.

A. Volunteer Assignment (200 points): You are required to do volunteer work with the Deaf community for a total of at least SIX hours (worth 10 points per hour plus 15 points from the supervisor’s evaluation for a maximum of 75 points per activity). Your signing skills (125 points) will be assessed. Turn in your USB flash drive on the schedule date below. Submitting your assignment even one day late will result 25% off of the final grade. See the criteria for more details in your course packet.

All video and ethnographic assignments are due as scheduled for full credit. No late assignments will be accepted for those dates. You are strongly encouraged go to MEZ 2.104 only to be recorded on camera in front of a Mac computer. No other place, such as your dorm room, your apartment, etc., is allowed. If there is a special circumstance, please talk with me about it. No points will be given if you attempt to divert from the requirements.

RATIONALE: Due to the large size of the class and the amount of contact hours per week, it is not possible for the instructor to give each student the desired individual time. It is important that students interact with other Deaf people in order to become fluent in ASL, and more knowledgeable about Deaf culture. Past experience has shown that those students who interact with d/Deaf people do far better on exams than those who do not.

B. LAB REQUIREMENTS: (a total of 180 points) Movie Critique Quizzes -- You are to view THREE (3) DVD movies, selected from the given list (in their respective order). The first two movies will have a multiple choice quiz. The first movie quiz is 20 points. The second movie quiz is worth 100 points. The third movie lab will require you to do a Movie Reaction Video (60 points). The goal of this reaction video (you will record yourself signing it) is for you to express your thoughts, opinions or questions about the movie. The video must include the information pertaining to the questions [See questions handouts]. You are to answer each in a narrative way. Turn in your USB flash drive on the due date below. Submitting a lab assignment even one day late will result 25% off of the final grade. *Please read the criteria in the course packet.*

C. For Hearing People Only written quizzes (50 points): will include, but are not limited to, True/False, based on reading of selected chapters of the textbook. The first quiz is worth 24 possible points and second quiz is worth 26 possible points.

D. COMPREHENSION QUIZZES (150 points): The FIRST TWO Quizzes (worth a total of 50 points) are based on ASL 507 and will be given in class. The first “quiz-type” will be based on Pronouns, Possessives, and Age signs. This will be on the second day of class. The second “quiz-type” will be based on Money and Clock signs – distributed on the third day of class. For Unit 14, 15, 16, and 13, there will be between 6 and 8 quizzes worth a total of 100 points. Some quizzes will be announced in class and some will be “pop” quizzes. You may not make up any quizzes you miss – a missed quiz means a zero. They are derived from reading/viewing from the “Signing Naturally” workbook and DVD, video assignments, and/or class discussions and activities. No make-ups will be given for quizzes missed due to absence. If the absence is caused by extreme circumstances, the lecturer may consider adjusting your final grade points to compensate for the missed quiz.

E. FOUR EXAMS: Four (4) sets of exams worth a total of 650 points.

1. Comprehension portion (100 points – Exams 1 through 4): For all four exams with Unit 14, 15, 16, and 13, I will sign sentences/questions and you will write down answers on a piece of paper, which is given to you right before the test is administered. This written/comprehensive portion is on all of the exams. Each one is worth 100 points = 400 points total.
2. **Expressive portions (100 points – 2nd and 4th Exams Only):** The exam 2nd will be based on Unit 14 & 15 and Exam 4 will be based on Units 16 & 13. I will give you a scripted dialogue for you and your partner (you pick your partner) to practice a few days before the exam takes place. You practice on your own time outside of class. On the exam day, you and your partner will sit or stand in front of the video camera and sign away, using your scripted dialog as your guide. This portion is on these two exams only and are worth 100 points each = 200 points total.

3. **Written portion (50 points – 4th Exam Only):** This portion is derived from language and cultural notes, and your “Signing Naturally” workbook. This portion is included in the fourth and last exam, which is worth 50 points.

*No extra credit allowed! I cannot offer it to one particular student or group.*

*Pass/Fail grades are not allowed; this course may be taken for a letter grade only.*

*No extra credit allowed! I cannot offer it to one particular student or group.*

**COURSE ABSTRACT**

Grade Breakdown:

- Volunteer Report = 200 possible points
- Movie Critique Quizzes: 3 X 20 points each = 180 possible points
- Written Quiz = 50 possible points
- 6-10 Comprehension Quizzes = 150 possible points
- 4 Exams = 650 possible points
- Total: 1230 possible points

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<td>A-</td>
<td>1149 – 1100</td>
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<td>780 – 732</td>
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*Note: A Grade of D results in ineligibility for any future ASL courses. Therefore, you are expected to pass with a C (74%). Additionally in ASL 312L, you are expected to pass with a C (74%). Needless to say, you are encouraged to work hard in this class to prepare for your next class in the Spring semester!*

**Resources for Learning & Life at UT Austin**

The University of Texas has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning.

- The UT Learning Center: http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/
- Undergraduate Writing Center: http://uwc.utexas.edu/
- Counseling & Mental Health Center: http://cmhc.utexas.edu/
- Career Exploration Center: http://www.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/
- Student Emergency Services: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/
WEBSITES:

Use of Blackboard for Class
GRADES: To check or review your grades, look up on Blackboard. URL Blackboard: https://courses.utexas.edu/ or call help desk at 475-9400.

REQUIRED UNIVERSITY NOTICES AND POLICIES:

University of Texas Honor Code
The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students
Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently – I recommend daily, but at minimum twice a week – to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:
Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For more information on scholastic dishonesty, please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php

Documented Disability Statement:
If you enquire special accommodations, you must obtain a letter that documents your disability from the services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 or 471-4641 (TTY) for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to me at the beginning of the semester so we can discuss the accommodations you need. No later than five business days before an exam, you should remind me of any testing accommodations you will need. For more information, visit http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/index.php

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)
If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), AND the University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Emergency Evacuation Policy
Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation: Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless you’re given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

*ASL 312K SCHEDULE

Volunteer Assignment: November 17th

Lab: Movie Critique: September 24th

Quiz #1
| Quiz #2 | October 29th |
| Quiz #3: | November 10th |

**FHPO Quiz:**

| Quiz #1 | October 1st |
| Quiz #2 | October 22nd |

**Pop and Comprehension Quizzes:**

| Quiz #1 | September 1st |
| Quiz #2 | September 3rd |

**Exams: (**TENTATIVE**)**

| Exam I | Unit 14 – Comprehension exam only | September 22nd |
| Exam 2 | Unit 15 – Comprehension and Expressive Exam (plus Unit 14) | October 13th |
| Exam 3 | Unit 16 – Comprehension exam only | November 5th |
| Exam 4 | Unit 13 – Comprehension and Expressive Exam (plus Unit 16) plus Written Exam | Dec. 1st & 3rd |

*Please note that the schedule is subject to change.*

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After reading the syllabus, the lecturer will bring a form for you to sign. This one is for you to keep.

I have read the syllabus for ASL 312L (American Sign Language 4) and understand all of the policies and requirements as set forth therein.

Printed Name

Signature