COURSE NUMBER: 40915
40935
DATE: Spring 2010

CLASS HOURS: 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. (MTWTHF)
10 a.m. – 11 a.m. (MTWTHF)
ROOM: GAR 2.112
MEZ 1.122

LECTURER: Debbie White
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 12:00-2:00 p.m. Thursday 11:00-12:00 p.m.
OFFICE ROOM: CAL 516
VIDEO PHONE: 5124101497
* E-MAIL: debbiewhite@mail.utexas.edu

*If you need to call your teacher, call Sorenson Video Relay Services at 1-866-327-8877. Follow the prompts and an interpreter will call you back and will place the call for you.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ASL 506 or equivalent with a grade of C or higher

ASL 507 is a second-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.

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 Level 1*, Units 8-12 and 17. These activities will include interactive activities such as describing others, making requests, talking about family and occupations, attributing qualities to others, talking about routines and talking about weekend activities. Supporting studies include attendance of Deaf events, film and video viewing, ASL literary readings, and other analytical activities.

COURSE GOALS:

A) Communication

1. Grammatical Features
   a. Students will demonstrate mastery of target, content-specific commands, questions, and statements in ASL, both nonmanual behaviors and manual signs.
   b. Students will be able to sign and comprehend short dialogues/complete short sentences in ASL as directed by the instructor.
2. Vocabulary Development

a. Given a set of targeted vocabulary items derived from Units 8-12 & 17, of Signing Naturally, and videos, students will show mastery of vocabulary items through class activities and assessments.

3. Conversational Skills

a. Students will demonstrate comprehension and conversation facilitating behaviors.

b. Students will demonstrate comprehension and production of regulating behaviors (i.e. attention getting techniques, turn taking signals, and others)

c. Students will demonstrate comprehending short narratives and stories in ASL told by the instructor.

B) Cultural Awareness

1. Students will gain an understanding of American Sign Language as indigenous to Deaf culture through the use of print resources and videos.

2. Students will observe, identify, discuss, and use simple patterns of behavior for interacting in various settings, such as classroom activities, videotexts, the use of resources, etc.

3. Students will observe, identify, discuss, and use appropriate communication strategies for greeting and leave-taking, attention getting, and use of names (i.e., name signs) in classroom activities.

4. Students will observe and discuss the historical and current role of technology in the Deaf culture. (See the Connections)

C) Connections

1. Students will understand the use of technology to access and exchange information with and within the Deaf community.

D) Comparisons

1. Students will recognize differences and similarities between spoken languages and the visual/conceptual structure of American Sign Language, including inflections, questions, negatives, statements, etc.

E) Community

1. Students will attend social functions/events in which members of the Deaf community are present and write report.
COURSE RATIONALE: American Sign Language (ASL) is the language of a sizable minority. Approximately one-half million Deaf people in the U.S. and Canada now uses American Sign Language. ASL is the third most used minority language in the U.S.

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:
1) Level One (1) Signing Naturally, A Student Workbook and Videotext by Smith, Lentz, and Mikos.

2) For Hearing People Only, 3rd Edition, by Moore & Levitan

3) One Course Packet for ASL 507, Seeger, White, & Garberogio – it can be purchased at Speedway Copying, Dobie Mall, 2025 Guadalupe, Suite 140.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Participation: It is essential that students make every effort to attend every class on time and be prepared to participate in class activities. Attention to classroom activities is imperative. Behaviors such as reading newspapers, using pagers/cell phones, laptops, or doing homework for another class will not be tolerated.

RATIONALE: This is a skill developing lab course involving group and individual practice and skills development using visual/gestural stimuli. It is very difficult to make up absences. Missing class or being late to class really does hinder your progress. When you ask questions that may have been answered during the day you were absent or late, other students suffer.

Starting January 22nd, Participation will be graded in the following manner:

Attendance Policy. 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. It is your responsibility to check periodically with the teacher to make sure you and your teacher are in agreement on your number of absences.

You are allowed five (5) absences (both excused and unexcused) over the course of the semester. For each absence beyond five (5), your grade will suffer. If you have 6 absences, regardless of the reason, your final grade will be reduced by one (1) letter grade. Each subsequent absence will result in a further five (5)-point reduction in your total grade point average. You are allowed to use your absences as you see fit; however, use them with discretion. These days are given to you to make accommodation for illness, doctors’ appointments, important appointments (i.e., job interviews), mandatory attendance of sport events (including away games), observance of religious holy days and the like. If you use your absences indiscriminately during early in the semester, you run the risk of not having absences available. If you need to be absent in the event of an emergency, see below. *

NOTE: No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences.

*If you are absent six or more times, plan to provide your instructor with appropriate documentation showing that all six of absences were accrued due to emergency reasons. Your lecturer will determine what constitutes an emergency.
Each tardiness and early departure from class of at least 5 minutes from class will be documented. Each total of three (3) documents will result as one (1) absence.

Observance of Religious Holy Days: students must notify instructor at least 14 days prior to holy days. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Talking with voice will NOT be tolerated during class sessions. Begin refraining use of your voice as the instructor arrives. Repetition of using voice may result in deduction of points of the total point average of final grade.

RATIONALE: a) The skills to be developed in this class depend on visual perception and memory. Use of auditorial stimuli inhibits this learning process of both the person talking and other students in the class. b) In this class, students will experience cross-cultural interaction between Deaf and hearing people. It is important that students recognize and respect this sensitive area and the Deaf person’s resentment at the discriminatory and thoughtless use of voice in his/her presence.

Attention to classroom activities is imperative. If you own a pager/cell phone, please turn it OFF as you come in class. Eye contact in the class is very important. Disruption such as ringing or vibration from the device breaks the eye contact as heads turn toward the source of the sound! Also, the use of laptop, doing the assignments for other courses or reading newspapers is NOT allowed.

**Bring your course packet to class at all times. Two (2) points will be deducted from the grand final grade points for each time you fail to bring it.

B. LAB REQUIREMENTS:

1. Three (3) Movie Critique Quizzes:

   You are required to go to lab in either MEZ 2.104 or the Fine Arts Library to view three (3) DVD movies, selected from the given list, or you will have a quiz on each movie afterwards. Each quiz is worth twenty (20) points for a total of 60 points.

   *(See Criteria for lab reports in your course packet.)*

2. Ethnographic reports - Two Ethnographic Reports:

   You are required to attend two (2) social events in the Deaf Community: Both events will be cultural observation which means you will only observe the cultural aspects in each event. You may include direct socialization with at least one culturally Deaf person; however, as a Beginner Signer, you are NOT obliged or expected to interact directly with the Deaf; however, you may wish to socialize with at least one culturally Deaf person if you wish. This kind of initial contact may help you prepare to the third semester class that calls for direct socialization.

   Type a two-page report based on the cultural/ethnographic outline (see criteria in your course packet) after the event. More information on the event will be given later in class. See criteria for your cultural observation/ethnographic report in your course packet for more information.
Upcoming social events will be announced in class. If you know of events other than the announced, you must seek approval from your instructor before attending. See Due Date Sheet for dates of reports. *(Late reports are not accepted without good reasons.)*

Each report is worth 20 points for a total of 40 pts.

*See criteria for cultural observation reports in your course packet.*

**RATIONALE:** It is important that students interact with other Deaf people in order to become fluent in ASL, and more knowledgeable about Deaf culture. Experience has shown that those students who interact with d/Deaf people do far better on exams than those who do not.

**C. QUIZZES**

1. **For Hearing People Only: Two quizzes** will be derived from your text, *For Hearing People Only.* Each quiz will consist of, but not limited to, True/False, Multiple Choice, and Short answers. Both quizzes will be worth a total of 50 possible points. See Due Date Sheet for dates.

2. **Comprehension Quizzes (Between 6 to 10 quizzes):** Worth a total of 150 points. Some quizzes will be announced in class and some will be “pop” quizzes. You may not make up any quizzes you miss – if you miss the quiz, you will get a zero. The quizzes will be based mainly on the ability to comprehend ASL and cultural information. Questions may also be derived from the reading/viewing from the signing Naturally workbook/video, video assignments, or from class discussions.

**D. FOUR (4) EXAMS:**

First exam reviews material that was covered in ASL 506; it will be a comprehension portion ONLY derived from Signing Naturally, Level One, worth a total of 100 points total.

Three Exams will be derived from Units 8 – 12 (Signing Naturally, Level One) plus 17 (from course packet) and teacher's lectures:

Exam 2 and 3 will consist two portions: 1) comprehension portion: Teacher will use various ways in signing such as sentences or narratives or descriptions and you write down the answers worth 100 points each exam. 2) An expressive portion covering Units 8, 9, 10, and 11: you and your partner of your choice will sign a given dialogue (topic) worth 50 points each exam for a total of 300 points for both exams.

Exam 4 will have three portions: Expressive portion worth 50 points; Comprehension portion worth 100 points covering Units 12 & 17; and Written portion worth 50 points, involving, but not limited to, multiple choices, True/False questions, and short essay questions covering Units 8-12, and 17 for a total of 200 points for this whole exam.

All four exams are worth 600 possible points total. See Due Date Sheet for tentative dates for the exams.
*Questions that you miss, because of your being late, will count against you. NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!! The total points for all exams and quizzes are 800 points.

COURSE ABSTRACT

GRADES: Grades will be based on a successful completion of four (4) exams and quizzes for a total of 800 possible points, plus 100 possible points for successful and satisfactory completion of Lab and Ethnographic for a total of 900 possible points.

A: 846 - 900 (94% - 100%)  
B: 756 - 800 (84% - 86%)  
C: 666 - 720 (74% - 76%)  
D: 576 - 630 (64% - 66%)

A-: 810 - 845 (90% - 93%)  
B-: 720 - 755 (80% - 83%)  
C-: 630 - 665 (70% - 73%)  
D-: 540 - 575 (60% - 63%)

B+: 783 - 809 (87% - 89%)  
B+: 719 (77% - 79%)  
C+: 693 - 719 (77% - 79%)  
D+: 603 - 629 (67% - 69%)

F = below 540 (59% & below)

Note: A grade of D results in ineligibility for any future ASL courses.

There will be NO extra credits allowed! We cannot offer it to one particular student or group.

There will be NO pass/fail grade; this course is based on letter grade only.

WEB SITES:


2. TUTORING: ASLonline Tutorial Website: www.laits.utexas.edu/asi506. It will ask you for the User ID which is “asi506” and www.laits.utexas.edu/asi507 - no password needed. The password for ASL 506 is deafworld (“0” is a number, not a letter). Please use lower case in everything. It is an excellent source to review the signs you have learned in class as well as linguistics aspects.
Due Dates for ASL 507

Lab Quizzes:

1st Quiz: Friday, Feb. 5th.
2nd Quiz: Friday, Mar. 5th
3rd Quiz: Friday, April 9th

Ethnographic Reports:

1st report: Monday, Feb. 22nd
2nd report: Friday, April 5th

Quizzes: (For Hearing People Only) (Tentative)

1st Quiz Friday, Mar. 12th
2nd Quiz Friday, Apr. 23rd

Exams (tentative)

1st Exam (ASL 506) Jan. 25th
2nd Exam (Units 8 & 9) Feb. 25th, 26th
3rd Exam (Units 10 & 11) April 1st, 2nd
4th Exam (Units 12 & 17) May 4th - 7th
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 require 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/ssh/.

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.
Please read the syllabus, and then sign below and return to the instructor.

I have read the syllabus for ASL 507 (American Sign Language 2) and understand all of the policies and requirements as set forth therein.

Printed Name

Signature