ASL 312L
SECOND YEAR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE II
COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER: 40955  DATE: Spring 2010
CLASS HOUR:  MWF 11:00-12:00 p.m.  ROOM: PAR 101

LECTURER: Debbie White
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 12:00-2:00 p.m.  Thursday 11:00-12:00 p.m.
OFFICE ROOM: CAL 516  PHONE: Office: 512-410-1497 (Video Phone only)

*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.

*E-MAIL: debbiewhite@mail.utexas.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is for students who have completed ASL 312K (or who have completed ASL 1, 2, and 3 at other colleges (specifically required textbooks, Signing Naturally Levels One and Two by Lentz, Mikos, and Smith). It involves extensive exposure to body language and American Sign Language (ASL) allowing the development of intermediate to advanced communication skills used with Deaf people.

In order to explore various linguistic features of ASL, students will study issues such as:

1) Comparison of historically older signs with contemporary sign formation; 2) Comparison of ASL and different forms of Manually Coded English; and 3) conceptual accurate signs: usage of semantically appropriate signs for the student’s intended message. Deaf Culture norms and values also may be studied in issues such as Deaf Peddling and in practice of conversational skills by use of strategic interactions.

Students will present narratives focusing on, but not limited to, use of classifiers, non-manual behaviors, and usage of space and directions: personal experiences and current events;

Three contact hours per week.

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) Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture, by Padden and Humphries
2) Course Packet: One “Course Packet for ASL 312L by Seeger and White”; it can be purchased at Speedway Copying, Dobie Mall, 2025 Guadalupe, Suite 140.
3) USB (GB 2 and up)
A. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance Policy:** Class attendance and participation is worth 3 points daily. Points begin to be counted on January 22. **The total points for attendance and participation (41 days) come to 123 points.** (Exam days, specifically Mar. 8th, and May 7th, are not included.)

You should plan to attend class regularly, inasmuch as the material covered in class and participation in class discussion are vital to your performance in this course. Roll call is mandatory. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard periodically throughout the semester to ensure that you keep current on your number of absences/tardiness.

**Late for class:** Each tardiness and early departure from class of at least 5 minutes 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.

**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 may drastically put you behind. When you ask questions that may have been answered during the day you were absent or late, the other students suffer. The time it takes to answer your questions is not worth your peers/ time. This also forces other students and the teacher to get behind.

2. **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 final grade score.**

**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 break 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, etc is NOT allowed.

3. 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. TWO ASSIGNMENTS:

1) **Deaf History Video Assignment:** You are to do some research on one topic of your choice in Deaf History (i.e. Deaf President Now, Alexander Graham Bell vs. Edward M. Gallaudet, Martha Vineyard, etc.); then document all the information and do a video presentation on your topic at MEZ 2.104 (Media Center). You will hand in both your typed
document and USB to your lecturer on due date – both inserted in a 6”x 9” envelope. It is worth the total of 60 possible points. *See instructions in your course pocket.

2) Volunteer Assignment: You are required to do volunteer work with the Deaf for a total of at least 10 hours (worth 100 points-10 points per hour) and do a video presentation on your volunteer experience at MEZ 2.104 (Media Center). You will also document all adequate information – see the outline guideline in your course packet (worth 34 points). Hand in both your USB and the typed document, along with the evaluation sheet from your volunteer supervisor to your lecturer on due date – all inserted in a 6”x9” envelope- see instructions in your course packet. Your signing skills will be assessed by your instructor (worth 100 points). *See the criteria for more details in your course packet.

At the end of your entire volunteer session at one place, have your Supervisor/Coordinator fill out a Volunteer Assessment form (worth 15 points). The overall total possible points for the volunteer assignment is 249 points.

- A list of Deaf organizations and events that are not in course packet and where you may make contacts may be distributed in class during the semester. At some places, such as TSD, you will be expected to fill out a volunteer sheet of your personal info and references. If you choose to volunteer at such places, it is critical that you apply as soon as possible (within FIRST TWO weeks) to allow time for processing before you are allowed to volunteer. (See your course packet)
- The teacher WILL NOT TOLERATE procrastination on the student’s part!
- Additional information: If you want to volunteer on a regular basis at TSD, you can fill out the background check forms on web page: www.tsd.state.tx.us and click on the Job Opportunities page, then on the supplemental application document.

**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.

C. EXAMS (Two (2) exams and four (4) quizzes):

**Exams: (500 points in total)**

1) Both exams – each will have two parts: Expressive portions will be Videotaped presentation – worth 200 possible points, and comprehension portion worth 50 possible points, a total of 250 possible points each exam for a total of 500 possible points for both exams.

**Comprehension portion of both exams:** Teacher will use various ways such as signing some sentences or narratives, etc., or use a videotape of a signed excerpt; then ask questions pertaining to those sentences or narratives, and you write down answers.

For the comprehension portion, be on time for each exam. Teacher will wait only five minutes after the class begins to give the exams. If you come in late, quietly take a seat and begin on whichever part teacher is on. Questions that you miss, due to your tardiness, will count against you.
Expressive Portion of both exams (Presentations): You will be required to provide a 3 to 5 minute presentation (counted as an exam). You will be given guidelines of techniques for the presentation in class (see course packet). Prior to each presentation, you are to hand in your typed outline to your instructor; otherwise, 10 points will be deleted from your presentation grade. During the presentation, you will be videotaped on an individual basis by your instructor and be evaluated at a later date. And you will give both of your presentations in the class.

*For the second presentation: Prior to presentation, you are to hand in both your typed outline and a copy of the article to your instructor; otherwise, 10 points will be deleted from your expressive exam grade.

*Note: Also, prior to the date of each of your scheduled presentations, you are encouraged to make an appointment to see your instructor in her office for her tips and feedbacks on your sign production skills.

Rationale: To evaluate your ASL skills by using ASL features, i.e., non-manual behaviors use of space, classifiers, fingerspelling, numbers, etc.

The instructor will schedule each student a day and a time to give her/his presentation in class. You will be VIDEOTAPED. Each presentation should be 3 to 5 minutes. You will get a format for your presentation soon. Each videotaped exam is worth 200 possible points for a total of 400 possible points (for two expressive exams).

Two (2) assigned topics for the presentations are:

1. Personal narrative (The most embarrassed moment or the strangest experience you have had).
2. Current Events (Deaf-related issues only)

Two Written Quizzes will include mainly short answer questions or short essay types, based on reading of each chapter of the textbook, Deaf in America: Voices From A Culture. Each quiz will be worth 20 possible points for a total of 40 possible points.

Two Written Quizzes will be based on your reading of History of ASL and English vs. ASL in your course packet. First quiz will be worth 30 possible points and second quiz – 40 possible points each for a total of 70 possible points.

A total for both exams and quizzes is 610 possible points.

COURSE ABSTRACT

GRADES: Grades will be based on participation for a total of 123 possible points, a successful completion of two (2) exams and four (4) quizzes for a total of 610 possible points, and 309 possible points for the assignments for a grand total of 1042 possible points. NO make up exams will be given!

*There will be NO extra credits. 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.

A: 979-1042 (94%-100%)  A-: 938-978 (90%-93%)  B+: 886-937 (87%-89%)
B: 834-885 (84%-86%)  B-: 782-833 (80%-83%)  C+: 781-802 (77%-79%)
C: 771-780 (74%-76%)  C-: 729-770 (70%-73%)  D+: 698-728 (67%-69%)
D: 667-697 (64%-66%)  D-: 625-666 (60%-63%)  F: below 624
WEBSITES:

- **GRADES:** To check or review your grades, look up on Blackboard. URL Blackboard: http://www.utexas.edu/cc/blackboard/tutorials/student/index.html – student manual or blackboard information site: http://www.utexas.edu/cc.blackboard. Or call help desk at 475-9400.

- **TUTORING:** ASLonline Tutorial Website: www.laits.utexas.edu/asl506. It will ask you for the User ID which is “asl506” and www.laits.utexas.edu/asl507 - no password needed. The password for ASL 506 is deafw0rld (“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 312L**

**Exams**

First Exam (tentative)
- Comprehension portion
- Expressive portion

Mon. March 8th
To be scheduled in class – Feb.

Second Exam
- Expressive portion
- Comprehension

To be scheduled in class
(April & May)
Friday, May 7th

**Quizzes (tentative)**

History of ASL
- Friday, January 29th

ASL vs. MCE
- Wednesday, March 31st

**Deaf in America Quizzes (tentative)**

Quiz #1 (Ch. 1 - 4)
- Friday, March 12th

Quiz #2 (Ch. 5 - 7)
- Friday, April 16th

**Deaf History Video Assignment (tentative)**
- Friday, Feb. 5th

**Volunteer Report**
- Wednesday, April 21st
**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/ssd/.

**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.
After reading the syllabus, then sign below and return to the instructor.

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

Date