

Com-D 2910 Sign Language I

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Course Objective: Students will gain expressive and receptive conversational skills in American Sign Language and basic knowledge of Deaf culture.

Required Text:

1. Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture by Padden and Humphries
2. Course reader students must purchase from the bookstore.

Other References:

1. ASL Dictionary on CD-rom available for use in the Sign Language Lab and in the Young Educational Technology Center .
2. Sign Language Lab in room 002 of the Lillywhite building:
 1. Lab assistants available during lab hours
 2. ASL Dictionaries on CD-rom
 3. Video tapes covering a wide array of ASL and Deaf Culture information
3. Science and Technology Library:

Video tapes are available in the audio-visual center and are listed under the following instructors' names: Berg, Bergeson, King, Kelley-King, and Yarger.

Course Requirements:

1. Approximately 5 receptive ASL tests (100 points each)
These tests require you to translate sentences signed in American Sign Language into written English. Your sentences must be written on standard 8 1/2 X 11 paper. No paper torn out of a spiral notebook. Your sentences must be written in correct, legible English.
2. Read the book, Deaf in America : Voices From a Culture by Padden and Humphries. You will have a multiple choice / true-false / short answer test on Wed. March 27. This test if worth 100 points.
3. Final Project (100 points). See attached page for details.
4. Exam on the "Introduction to ASL" information in your course reader (100 points)

5. Interaction with Deaf Adults (50 points) You must meet someone who is deaf during this semester. There are Deaf club events here in Cache Valley and at the Deaf Center in SLC that you can attend or you can have a conversation with one or more Deaf students on campus. This conversation needs to be in ASL and those with whom you interact must be Deaf and use ASL as their primary language. Write a paper describing the activity or meeting, date and place and whom you met, what you learned and your impressions of the conversation. This is due on Monday, April 21.

6. Final Exam (200 points) The final exam is comprehensive and must be taken at the scheduled time. The final exam will cover vocabulary and cultural and grammatical information that is taught in the Beginning American Sign Language Video Course, tapes 1 – 6. These tapes are commonly referred to as the Bravo tapes because they center around the Bravo family. You must watch these tapes during the semester and you are encouraged to watch each tape twice. The tapes are between 30 – 50 minutes in length. They are available in the Sign Language Lab and in the Science and Technology Library.

7. Sign Language Lab: You are highly encouraged to visit the Sign Language Lab regularly to view video tapes and to interact with the lab assistant. All communication in the Sign Lab must be in ASL. No voice is allowed. You will notice sign-up sheets on the door of the Sign Lab. You do not need to sign up to view video tapes or use the computer. You do, however, need to sign up for an appointment to have one-on-one help from the lab assistant. You should come to the lab with questions prepared for the lab assistant or prepared to have a conversation in ASL for receptive and expressive practice. You learn this language best through practice, therefore it is to your advantage to arrange time for conversations with the lab assistant and to set up no-voice study groups with your classmates as often as possible. You cannot count time with the lab assistant for your Deaf adult interaction. That needs to be a separate activity. This encourages you to meet members of the Deaf community and become accustomed to a wide variety of signing styles.

The grading scale based on percentage earned of the total number of points possible.

89.5-91.4	A-	79.5-81.4	B-
91.5 - 96.4	A	81.5 - 86.4	B
96.5 – 100	A+	86.5 - 89.4	B+
69.5 - 71.4	C-	59.5 - 61.4	D-
71.5-76.4	C	60.5 - 66.4	D
76.5 - 79.4	C+	66.5 - 69.4	D+ 59.4 or below F

Extra credit is not available for any student. You receive the grade you earn based on test scores only.

Attendance:

You must attend all classes in order to keep up with the new vocabulary and sentence structures that will be introduced. **Makeup tests are not given.** Any test missed will result in a zero. Your lowest score of the five receptive ASL tests will be dropped. You may not drop the "Introduction to ASL" test, final exam, creative interpreting project, or Deaf in America Test. If you miss a test, the zero will be dropped as your lowest score. If an emergency causes you to miss more than one test, you must meet with your instructor to explain the situation in order for accommodations to be made.

Course Fee:

Make your sure have paid the \$22.50 lab fee required for this course or you will be dropped from the roll. The Sign Language Lab is located in room 002 of the Lillywhite building and is equipped with the latest and most complete selection of video tapes to help students improve their ASL skills and learn about Deaf culture. The lab fee is used to for Sign Lab equipment, video tapes, CD-roms and pays labs assistants .

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities that require accommodation for this course should contact the instructor during the first week of class. The disability must be documented through the Disability Resource Center.

Important Dates:

January 5-7, 2004—Comprehensive Exams for Deaf Education Graduate Students
February 19-22, 2004—American College Educators of the Deaf Conference April 2-4, 2004—Deaf Education Conference (Albuquerque, NM)

ASL Expressive Project

You are required to choose a story, monologue, lecture, or poem and interpret it in American Sign Language. You must choose a project that when signed, is between three and five minutes in length. A good way to make sure is to record someone reading it on cassette tape. Make sure the recording is between 3 and 5 minutes. Practice interpreting the project while listening to it. If you can't keep up with the speaker, you will need to adjust the project or your signing speed accordingly. You are expected to memorize your project. One class period prior to your presentation day, you must provide your instructor with a typed, double-spaced English version of your project. The instructor will compare the English version with your ASL interpretation. On the day of your presentation, you must

bring the cassette tape recording of your project and play it while you interpret. You will be evaluated on your ability to:

- Introduce the project appropriately
- Use ASL structure
- Use conceptually accurate signs
- Articulate Signs correctly
- Use economy of motion to provide a smooth and flowing interpretation
- Use space and large signs appropriate for an "on stage" performance
- Use non-manual markers effectively (facial expression and eye contact/gaze)
- Demonstrate practice and preparation
- Use appropriate lag time (keeping up with the speaker while maintaining proper ASL structure)

Each of the above criteria will be explained in class. You will be assigned a number that will indicate when you will present your project. You must be present on the day numbers are assigned. If you do not receive a number due to absence, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to find out your presentation day. You must be prepared on the day you are assigned to present your project. Failure to present the project at the assigned time will result in a 0 for the project.

You are required to work on the translation ON YOUR OWN. The instructor or lab assistants may help you with specific vocabulary or phrases that you have not learned in class. You may not ask a lab assistant to sign the project for you. Lab assistants may only assist with vocabulary. The interpretation is up to you. You are strongly encouraged to consult your instructor or lab assistant for vocabulary specific to your project. Do not trust books and signs that you learn from friends. Any signs that you learn, you should practice in front of a native user of ASL to be sure you are articulating them correctly. Misarticulation of signs is a very common problem that beginning signers experience, and they are expected during conversation in the beginning. You have plenty of time to correct your sign articulation problems for the final project and are expected to practice and be prepared to present a project that is clearly signed in American Sign Language.

Interaction Requirement for Sign I

You are required to have one interaction with the adult Deaf community. You must hand in a typed a summary, double spaced, describing your experience. You must include in your summary, the date and place of the interaction, names Deaf people you met, and describe the event you attended, what you learned, and your impressions. The object is for you to be the minority, the only or one of very few hearing people interacting with a majority of Deaf people who are members of the adult Deaf community and **native users of American Sign Language**. Activities are posted in the Utah Association of the Deaf bulletin in the Sign language lab. Many of the social events take place at the Utah Community Center for the Deaf in south Salt Lake City. Directions are posted on the bulletin board in the Sign Lab.

Meeting Deaf students on the USU campus and having a quality conversation with them will satisfy the interaction requirement. Occasionally there will be Deaf student activities on the USU campus. Remember that your interaction must be with Deaf adults who are native users of ASL. If you attend a meeting with a voice interpreter, this will not count as an interaction unless you stay and meet and interact with Deaf people using ASL, not an interpreter. If you have any questions about what will count as an interaction, please check with your instructor.

When attending any activity where Deaf individuals are present, never talk without signing what you are saying, even when you are talking with another hearing person. It is best for your interaction that you turn off your voice and use American Sign Language, rather than trying to talk and sign at the same time. There are some other guidelines that you need to follow which will be discussed in class.

Be sure you know the time and place of the activity you want to attend and have directions how to get there. The interaction paper will not be accepted late. Cancellations, wrong time, wrong place, etc., are not acceptable excuses for not completing the assignment. You are, therefore encouraged to have several interactions with the Deaf community this semester so that you can choose one to write about and not being left trying to complete an interaction at the last minute. You must hand in your summary of your experience on Mon., April 21.

*****NOTE: The final exam cannot be taken on a different day. This is the day and time assigned by the university for our particular class.**