



The University of Texas at San Antonio
College of Education and Human Development
Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching
ASL 1013 American Sign Language: Basic I

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Catalog Course Description: (3-0) 3 hours credit.

A study of American Sign Language, including basic concepts and sign lexicon. Grammatical features, including structure of American Sign Language, will be stressed. Each student will be expected to demonstrate to the instructor basic expressive and receptive ASL skills and demonstrate in writing the basic knowledge of ASL grammar rules.

Textbooks: Required: *Signing Naturally I*, Videotext and workbook by Smith, Lentz and Mikos

A Place of Their Own, Gallaudet Press
ASL 1013 Course Pak: UTSA Bookstore only
A blank VHS videotape

Recommended: *ASL Dictionary*, by Elaine Costello
A Basic Course in American Sign Language
By Humphries, Padden, and O'Rourke

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to recognize fingerspelled words and names.
2. Students will increase their ASL vocabulary to approximately 500 signs.
3. Students will be able to recognize specific properties and linguistic elements of ASL, such as handshape, location, movement, and simultaneous production.
4. Students will become aware of journals, publications, web sites and organizations related to the Deaf population.
5. Students will learn basic protocol in communicating with Deaf individuals, including personal interactions, use of telecommunications devices (TTY), Relay Texas and video relay services.
6. Students will meet and communicate with Deaf people in different cultural or community events (10 hours of outside class interaction).
7. Students will demonstrate their understanding of issues related to the Deaf community through reading materials on the subject.
8. Students will be able to describe some of the history and myths associated with ASL.

Policy and Procedures: Students are expected to demonstrate professional conduct and attire during class sessions (see Fitness to Teach policy document located in the Department web site). All cell phones and beepers must be turned off during class periods unless the instructor has given prior permission. In addition, in the ASL classes, if you must leave the room, do so in a manner that is least disturbing to the class. It is appropriate in the Deaf culture to explain to the class/teacher why you are leaving and when you will return.

No electronic recording of lectures or class sessions may be done without the prior permission of the instructor. No eating, drinking, or smoking is allowed in UTSA classrooms and laboratories. (Ad. Memorandum no. 54).

Disability Services (DS) coordinates support services and equipment for students with disabilities. Its goal is to help qualified students participate as fully as possible to university life. Some of the services and equipment available include registration assistance, note-taking, test accommodations, TTY, motorized scooters, adaptive computers, CCTVs and a Braille computer.

Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services located in MS 2.03.18, telephone 458-4157 (TTY 458-4981), or Downtown FS 1.526, 458-2816, in order to receive support services.

Scholastic Dishonesty: Students are expected to be above reproach in scholastic activities. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. According to the Regent's Rules and Regulations, part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22, "Scholastic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or part to another person, taking an exam for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

In addition to the above university policy, the American Sign Language courses are conducted **Without** the use of voice. It is expected that all students maintain "a signing atmosphere". This means that there should be no voicing, whispering, or mumbling in the classroom during the duration of the course. The instructor and the Coordinator of the ASL program will determine consequences for violation of this requirement. During the course, there may be monitoring of the class by outside students, other faculty, and/or other hearing people. Maintain class's integrity by keeping all translations to yourself. Do not voice to "help" others understand.

Honor Pledge and Honor Statement: As encouraged by the Honors Alliance, students are asked to turn in a typed statement stating: **"On my honor, as a student at the University of Texas at San Antonio, I will uphold the highest standards of**

academic integrity and personal accountability for the advancement of the dignity and the reputation of our university and myself.”

The above statement will be turned in and graded. The statement is due on or before the third class meeting after the syllabus is issued or a zero will be issued on this Participation assignment.

In addition to the above statement, all turned in and graded assignments must include the following statement: “I, _____, certify that I have upheld the highest standards of academic integrity on this assignment and that all work presented here is solely my own.”

You may copy and paste the above statement to your work turned in. Include it on all work. Failure to include the above statement on turned in work (Videotext worksheets, Presentation translations, and Contact hour reports) may result in a deduction of up to 5 points on the assignment.

Attendance Policy: If you are aware that you will be absent, you must contact the instructor in some form before class time that day or a zero may be issued and averaged. You are responsible for learning any material that you miss. Each lesson builds on previous lessons. You will be given at least one grade per class meeting. This may include a fingerspelling/grammar quiz, SN workbook check, etc., or daily homework. On test and/or presentation days, there may or may not be a fingerspelling/grammar quiz or SN workbook check. If you contact the instructor before class time, the missed fingerspelling/grammar quiz will not be counted against your grade. If you are late, the missed fingerspelling/grammar quiz will not be averaged with the other grades in the *Participation* portion of this course. If you are absent on a presentation/test day, you will receive a zero for those grades. There are no make-ups on signed presentations or receptive test. If you know in advance that you will be absent on a test day, the instructor may opt that you take only the written portion of the test before the exam date during office hours. This is at the instructor’s discretion.

Student Evaluation:

1. *Participation, Field Experiences, Signing Naturally Workbook Homework, Fingerspelling/Grammar Quizzes---20% of the final grade.*

Please maintain a “signing environment”---keep translations to yourself, attempt to comment/ask questions in ASL, and be patient with yourself and others. Your participation in class is crucial for you to learn ASL. It is suggested to practice outside class for at least 1 hour everyday. You may form study groups, watch the SN videotext/DVD, do the SN workbook, or interact with new Deaf friends. When practicing in groups, it is suggested that you limit talking. Have one partner fingerspell the words being worked on and the other partner sign the vocabulary word. Keep repeating the word until it is understood. In addition, it is suggested that you prepare sentences or small stories before the study session, and then have the

partner write down what was signed to them in ASL. The SN workbook may be checked periodically and graded. It is your responsibility to keep up with the workbook. The SN workbooks and videotexts/DVD's may not be returnable to the UTSA bookstore and the completion of the SN workbook is crucial to you successfully doing well in the course.

You will need to interact with the Deaf community for a total of 10 hours during the semester. From time to time, the instructor will give you information about activities going on in San Antonio and surrounding areas. You need to plan and prepare to go to these activities and interact with the Deaf community. There is a limit of 4 hours at any one activity. There are plenty to choose from and some you may enjoy more than others. Although the fall is traditionally when Deaf Awareness Week happens, during the spring semester events are also available as well as summer. At the end of the syllabus, a few regular activities are listed as well as web sites that could help you find additional interaction events. The places listed in this syllabus are only a few of the many available for you to attend. In addition, the Web site page attached to this syllabus has sites you may browse for study tips and information helpful in the course. A class night may be designated for a class "trip" to one or more events. As much notice as possible will be given by the instructor for these trips and the syllabus will be adjusted if needed. The experience will lead to greater understanding of the Deaf community and attendance may be taken. In addition, please note the tentative calendar attachments.

Please note that a "Deaf activity" is one that is planned, organized and run by the Deaf community and the majority of participants are Deaf. If you have the opportunity to interact with deaf people outside an organized activity, these hours will only count as extra credit and graded in groups of 5 hours. Seize the opportunity to converse with the Deaf any time you are able. Your education will be enhanced every time you have the chance to sign with the Deaf.

Reports on "field experience/interaction hours": Your reports should be typed, double-spaced, and approximately 1 page long on each experience. Reports should include a brief summary of the interaction, including your insights, feelings, observations, names of people you met, and any questions you may have. Without inclusion of the deaf person's sign name or full name, credit may not be issued for those hours. Interaction hours are often verified with others in the Deaf community. Please note the Scholastic Dishonesty policy at the beginning of the syllabus.

Reports on interaction with Deaf will be graded for content, but organize your thoughts and watch for grammatical errors. Occasional hand-corrected typographical errors are acceptable. Please include your name and the date in a heading. Make sure the amount of interaction time for each activity is clearly visible on the top of each report. Cover pages are not needed. Reports must be turned in during class time. The reports must be turned in within one week of the activity or no credit will be given for those hours. Extra credit will be given for a semester total of 15 interaction

hours. It is also good idea to keep a track of your hours and the date you turned them in.

Grading for Interaction hours:	15 hours	110
	10 hours	100
	9 hours	90
	8 hours	80
	7 hours	70, etc.

Your fingerspelling/Grammar quizzes average, Deaf interaction grade average and any SN workbook check grades are added together and averaged to give you your Participation grade.

2. *Signing Naturally Videotext Questions---10% of final grade.*

You will answer questions on a worksheet based on your comprehension of your SN videotext/DVD. The questions will be from the conversations on the video/DVD. There will be questions from each Unit 1-CR 1-6. The worksheets are located in your course packet. The tentative dates the worksheets will be due are listed in this syllabus. No late papers will be accepted. If you are absent, a zero will be given on your videotext questions worksheet. If you cannot make it to class, the paper may be delivered to my office or brought to class by another student at or before class time.

3. *Expressive Presentations---20% of final grade.*

You will have 3 expressive presentations. These will be signed in front of the class and will be recorded and timed. In addition to the practice you get with expressive signing, it is a wonderful opportunity to self-check your comprehension receptively as other students sign. You are responsible to ask questions of the signer in ASL if you do not understand what they are saying. If you fail to do this, you are not getting the practice and experience you will need to do well on the exams. Also, while others are signing in front of the room, respect them and watch their presentations. All expressive stories must be written or typed in English, then translated into ASL. The ASL translation should be written in pencil. If expressive assignments are not done in this manner, you may not be able to sign your presentation and a zero may be given. 10 points may be deducted for short stories. Practice signing your story many times so that it is memorized. No notes or outlines will be allowed while signing. Use the SN workbook (Key Phrases and other info.), SN videotext/DVD, and class notes to help you with the ASL grammar. Expressive presentations will be graded for content, expressiveness, fulfillment of the assignment, vocabulary and overall preparation. You will be videotaped. You are required to bring your own VHS tape to the class. All 3 presentations will be added to the same tape so that you can see your progress. If the lab is used, you will be recorded and then you can view your presentation on line. If the lab is not used, you may lose up to 5 point for not bringing a tape to class.

Presentation 1: "Introduce Partner" Include descriptions from Units 1-2 (2 mins)

Presentation 2: “Directions” Sign a small story including a “need” and directions you took to solve that need. Use Units 3 and 4 as a guide. (3 mins)

Presentation 3: “Routines” Pick a day or days of the week and sign your routine or activities on that day. Include opinions. (3-4 mins.)

Make sure that you fill in the top portion of the “Feedback on Expressive Presentations” form and have it ready when it is your turn to sign. Hand the form and videotape to the instructor, attached with your written presentation interpretation before you sign. The instructor will add comments and a grade to the “Feedback Form” and your translation paper and give it back to you in a timely manner. These forms are in the course packets at the end of every two lessons.

Sample:

English: Hello! My name is Ann Jones.

ASL: Hi! Name me Ann Jones.

English: I am a student at UTSA.

ASL: Me learn+agent university name U-t-s-a.

English: I am taking 2 classes, English and ASL.

ASL: Me learn class 2, English, ASL.

4. *Unit Tests---30% of final grade.*

Tests are cumulative and there will be no make-ups given on receptive tests. There will be at least 4 receptive tests, 4 written tests and 1 expressive test. During receptive tests, the instructor will sign sentences/short stories in ASL; you are expected to write in English what is signed to you in ASL. They will be signed to you 2 times. It is suggested that you say what is signed in your head, then, write it down.

Please write in ink. If you choose to write in pencil, Do not erase! You may cross out your answer but do not erase-either in pen or pencil. The expressive test consists of the instructor picking groups of 2 or 3 students. A situation is given to the students on a note card and you need to communicate effectively the information on the cards. The test over the book, *A Place of Their Own* will be an objective written test over the contents of the book. Read the book throughout the semester at your own pace. There will be no make-ups on any receptive test.

5. *Creative Assignment---20% of final grade.*

A song, poem, or other creative work will be interpreted in ASL. Examples will be shown to you in class. You will also be taught how to interpret them. You should have your song/poem/story picked out by the date listed on your tentative schedule. You should utilize your interaction time with the Deaf community and be ready to ask them specific lines or concepts from your songs. Do not expect the Deaf community or the instructor to interpret your whole song/poem/story for you. Your

songs/poems/stories will be performed and videotaped in class during your final exam date.

The following grade scale will be in effect for this semester:

A=90%-100%

B=80%-89%

C=70-79%

D=60%-69%

F=below 60.

