I. Course Description:
This class is an introduction to American Sign Language and Deaf Culture. All of the following are included but not limited to the principles, methods and techniques for communicating with deaf individuals who use ASL. An emphasis will be placed on the development of basic expressive and receptive skills for simple conversation with deaf individuals using ASL. Also a brief history of signs will be included. **The class will be conducted predominately in ASL, no voice.** This semester we will meet only through Zoom, during the class time listed above, on the days designated on your course calendar. You will have modules and content on D2L to help you practice on your own, and we will meet through Zoom to practice, and allow for content clarity opportunities. Active participation will prepare you for the exams in this course.

Time Requirement:
SGNL 1301 “Beginning American Sign Language” (3 credits) typically meets face to face once each week (Wednesday) in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students have weekly receptive and expressive assignments, are expected to take content quizzes, produce individual expressive videos, take receptive exams, and a final examination. Students are required to participate in various class activities, and required to submit a 3 minute signed autobiography. These activities average at a minimum of 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

Hybrid Explanation: A hybrid/blended course is defined in Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter P, Rule 4.257 as “a course is a course in which a majority (more than 50 percent but less than 85 percent), of the planned instruction occurs when the students and instructor are not in the same place.”

Communication:
**E-mails:** Any email sent M-F will receive a response within 48 hours. Please use email posted above. Only exception is during Thanksgiving Break. Emails will receive a response once the break is complete.

**Text Messaging:** You may sign up for Remind, and have the ability to also text questions to me for faster response. This will be posted in D2L for you to sign-up.

**Face-to-Face Communication:** If you need to meet with me “face-to-face”, my office hours will have a Zoom link. Use this to log on and ask specific questions. This link will be posted in D2L under “Office Hours Links”.

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives: (Program/Student Learning Outcomes)
**CORE VALUES OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
This course reflects the following core values of the College of Education (see the COE Conceptual Framework at [www.sfasu.edu/education/about/accreditations/ncate/conceptual](http://www.sfasu.edu/education/about/accreditations/ncate/conceptual)):

- Academic excellence through critical, reflective, and creative thinking
- Life-long learning
- Collaboration and shared decision-making
- Openness to new ideas, to culturally diverse people, and to innovation and change
- Integrity, responsibility, diligence, and ethical behavior
- Service that enriches the community
Program Learning Outcomes:
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:
- Students will demonstrate basic proficiency when using receptive and expressive American Sign Language adequate for basic/simple conversations with the deaf.
- Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of Deaf culture and the Deaf community.
- Students will demonstrate basic knowledge of English grammatical sign order while maintaining signs that are based on the meaning and intent of the original message.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in the vocabulary and grammar introduced in at least 4 units from Signing Naturally Level 1 including: Recognition of words, sentences, number’s, fingerspelling and short narratives.
- Students will properly fingerspell their own names
- Students will communicate with each other given a context provided by the instructor.
- Students will expand vocabulary and fluency beyond the classroom through practice and projects.

General Education Core Curriculum **Not a collection semester**
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

By enrolling in SGNL 1301 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the teamwork requirement. You will see this course on your D2L list.
At one point during the semester, you will receive an assignment that fulfills both the requirements of this course and the needs of Stephen F. Austin State University's Core Curriculum Assessment Plan with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. When you complete this one assignment, you need to upload the assignment to both your standard course dropbox determined by your Instructor and the “Core Curriculum” dropbox. The Core Curriculum dropbox will be identified by the Objective for which work is being collected. (Examples: Critical Thinking, Teamwork, Social Responsibility Empirical & Quantitative Skills, Personal Responsibility, Communication Skills-Written, Communication Skills-Written & Visual, and Communication Skills- Oral & Visual.) Please note that this only applies to the approved assignment. All other assignments should be submitted according to regular class operations.

When you complete the assignment mentioned above, you will upload the assignment to both the SGNL 1301 dropbox and the Teamwork dropbox.

Please note that this only applies to the specific assignment listed in the matrix below. All other assignments should be submitted according to regular class operations.

If you have any questions, please see your instructor, or contact the at Office of Student Learning and Institutional Assessment at (936) 468-1130.

III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:
You are expected to participate in class activities, perform on group exercises, and practice individually in ASL communication techniques and in Deaf culture. The units are designed so that students learn language in context, retain language by activities that are meaningful and therefore necessary in order to develop these skills.
- Students are required to sign all communication that happens in the classroom. (except during Q&A)
- Students may not use their voices while in the classroom during “voice off” activities and exams.
- Those students exhibiting bad manners will be asked to leave the classroom for the duration of the class.
TEST GRADES: Signed EXAMS (Receptive):

- Two major exams.
- Each exam will contain fingerspelling, old and new material (each test comprehensive).
- All tests will be signed and **students are expected to write the intent and meaning using good English grammar**.
- If you do not show up to an exam, a grade of 0 will be recorded, except for a **documented emergency**. Please see me WELL in advance (at least one week) for a known conflict, such as university sponsored sports activities, etc.
- Should you miss an exam for an unexcused absence (skipping class, alarm “not going off”, being late for an exam, etc) your grade will BE A ZERO for the missed exam. NO EXCEPTIONS AT ALL. Plan ahead and be smart.
- Should you miss an exam for an EXCUSED absence (death in the immediate family, illness requiring doctor visit and /or hospitalization, etc.) See me the day you return to reschedule.
- If you show up late to an exam, it is up to the instructor’s discretion to allow you to view the missed questions.
- You are only allowed to see each question TWICE, that is IT. If your internet connection fizzles out, during the exam, you will not get to see the missed questions. You will need to arrange to be in a place with stable internet for both exams.

**EXAM 1: Sept. 30** (100 points)

- Units 1-2
- Finger-spelling
- GLOSS
- Signed sentences incorporating ASL syntax, vocabulary, numbers, and vocabulary from the Signing Naturally DVD.
- You will sign up to take your exam at a specific time. You MUST be on time in Zoom. You will not be allowed to see any questions you missed if you enter the Zoom session late. You will only be allowed to see each question twice, no exceptions. You will have to upload your answer document immediately following the exam. Any document not uploaded within an hour of the exam, will receive a zero for the exam.

**COMP FINAL EXAM: December 11 at 10:45-1:15** (200 points - Counts TWICE)

- The comprehensive final exam is comprised of signed phrases you will have to write in correct English grammar. Covers Units 1-4.
- You MUST show up on the scheduled final day.
- You will sign up to take your exam at a specific time. You MUST be on time in Zoom. You will not be allowed to see any questions you missed if you enter the Zoom session late. You will only be allowed to see each question twice, no exceptions. You will have to upload your answer document immediately following the exam. Any document not uploaded within an hour of the exam, will receive a zero for the exam.
- You must make a B or better in the course and on the final in order to advance to ASL II.

**DAILY GRADES**

**UNIT Homework:** (100 points each/Daily grade)

Practicing on your own time is very important to your success in this class. We will be doing different homework exercises from *Signing Naturally* throughout the semester. This book has 2 discs in the back. You will use them to complete your homework. You will have homework due from each of the 4 Units. (You can just write the answer on a separate piece of paper for submission and scan the pages, or you can type them up, it does not have to be written in the book.) These MUST be submitted on the date listed. You will upload them to the Dropbox set up in D2L.

- **Unit 1** - **Due Sept. 12** - *Signing Naturally* 1:6, 1:7, 1:8, 1:9
- **Unit 2** - **Due Sept. 26** - *Signing Naturally* 2:2, 2:6, 2:7, 2:10
- **Unit 3** - **Due Oct. 24** - *Signing Naturally* 3:7, 3:8, 3:10, 3:12
- **Unit 4** - **Due Nov. 7** - *Signing Naturally* 4:1, 4:3, 4:7, 4:14
Manual Alphabet Quiz (100): Aug. 29: You will complete the quiz on D2L pertaining to the Manual Alphabet Quiz. All material you need to complete this is on D2L, under the Module for Manual Alphabet. Complete the Quiz at the end of the Module.

GLOSS Quiz (100): Sept. 12: You will complete the quiz on D2L pertaining to GLOSS. We will go over this in class, and there is also a review sheet in D2L for you to use as reference.

Culture Article (100): Due Oct. 24: You will choose an article pertaining to Deaf culture. You will read it and write a 2-3 page reflection over the article. This will need to be uploaded to D2L by the due date. Topics for you to choose from will be listed on D2L. The article needs to be double spaced, and in Times New Roman font, size 12 pt.

PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENTS:
Each of the following assignments must be signed and submitted. You can use the sign lab to record the assignment, or use your phones. You MUST upload this to D2L by the due dates listed. Make sure you have reviewed and abide by the recording requirements. If you do not follow these guidelines, you will lose a lot of points towards these assignments.

Describe Me! (100), Due Sept. 26: You will describe one of 4 pictures that are provided in D2L. You will describe the picture, and record it to GoReact. More instructions to follow.

Autobiography (200), Due Nov. 20: You will be given a page to answer questions about yourself. These questions will be used for guiding you in creating an Autobiography. You will tell about the story of your life, what happened in the past, what is happening now, and what you want to have happen in the future. This is all about providing variety with your signing, and making it meaningful to you. This will be 2.5-3.5 minutes in length.

Scavenger Hunt, Nov. 11: This will be completed during our Zoom class on this date. You will be broken up into break out rooms, and be given riddles. Together you will solve the riddles and sign the answers. It is a fun team assignment, that is always a student favorite! (This is worth 50 points)

Attendance Grade: This is a performance-based class. If you are not in class, then you are not learning. Please see below on attendance and grading. (Note: this is 50/50 points, not 100) These only count towards the Wednesday Zoom class meetings, as well as testing days.

0 Absences-50
1 Absence- 40
2 Absences-30
3 Absences-0
This will count toward your Performance Grade Average.

Assigned Readings and ASL Requirements: Students use Signing Naturally to complete their sign practice, and learn how to GLOSS ASL.

Class Participation: Successful class interactions depend on prepared and present communicators! You are expected to attend each class and to participate in all class discussions and activities. This includes actively listening, asking and answering questions, expressing your opinion. Your camera should be on, and your microphone muted for each class. You will be allowed to unmute during Q&A, but only when you are asking a question. Diversions will NOT be allowed! You need to make good use of your time, and focus during our Zoom classes. Cell phones need to be put away (unless it is your camera for Zoom) You are NOT allowed to record (unless you have prior authorization and documentation) or take pictures during class. Your phone needs to be out of sight when class starts until it is over.
IV. EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS:
GRADES WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Grades:</th>
<th>Test Grades:</th>
<th>Performance Grades:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Homework- 100</td>
<td>Exam 1 (Units 1&amp;2) 100</td>
<td>Describe Me! 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Homework- 100</td>
<td>Final Exam (Units 1-4) 200</td>
<td>Autobiography 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 Homework- 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 4 Homework- 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>Attendance 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual Alphabet Quiz- 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLOSS Quiz- 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culture Article- 100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Daily Average x 1  
Test Average x 2  
Performance Average x 1  

D+T+A/4=Final Avg

V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar:

M 8/24: First Class Day: Log on to D2L and read the Welcome Note for instructions for the week.
W 8/26: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L

S 8/29: Manual Alphabet Quiz Due (D2L)
M 8/31: Unit 1 Vocabulary Content (on D2L)
W 9/2: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L
M 9/7: Unit 1 Vocabulary Practice & Content (on D2L)
W 9/9: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L

S 9/12: GLOSS Quiz & Homework Unit 1 DUE in D2L
M 9/14: Unit 2 Vocabulary Content (on D2L)
W 9/16: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L
M 9/21: Unit 2 Vocabulary Content (on D2L)
W 9/23: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L

S 9/26: Describe Me Video Due on GoReact & Homework Unit 2 DUE in D2L
M 9/28: Review for Exam: Practice Documents on D2L
W 9/30: Exam 1 (You will sign up for a time slot to take your exam, either 2:30-3 or 3:15-3:45)
M 10/5: Unit 3 Vocabulary Content
W 10/7: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L
M 10/12: Unit 3 Vocabulary Content
W 10/14: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L
M 10/19: Unit 3 Vocabulary Content
W 10/21: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L

S 10/24: Culture Article & Homework Unit 3 DUE in D2L
M 10/26: Unit 4 Vocabulary Content
W 10/28: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L
M 11/2: Unit 4 Vocabulary Content
W 11/4: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L

S 11/7: Homework Unit 4 DUE in D2L
M 11/9: Autobiography Content & Instructions
W 11/11: Zoom Class/Savenger Hunt, Click the link provided in D2L
M 11/16: Autobiography Content on D2L and prepare to video
W 11/18: Zoom Class, Click the link provided in D2L

F 11/20: Autobiography DUE in GoReact
M 11/23- Thanksgiving Break: No Class
W 11/25- Thanksgiving Break: No Class
M 11/30- Review for Final Exam
W 12/2- Review for Final Exam
M 12/11- Final Exam @ 10:45-1:15

VI. Readings:

Subscriptions: www.goreact.com (This is what you will use to submit your videos)
VII. Course Evaluations:
Near the conclusion of each semester, students electronically evaluate courses taken within the College of Education. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including:

1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes;
3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay and retention. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation.

AS you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!”

In the Perkins College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: Found at https://www.sfasu.edu/policies

Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7
Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Documentation will also need to be provided.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or;
- helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or,
incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty
Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

Student Appeals
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

Withheld Grades: Policy 5.5
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4
Disruptive Behavior--Interference or disruption of students, faculty, administration, staff, the educational mission, or routine operations of the university is prohibited. Such activity includes, but is not limited to, behavior in a classroom or instructional program that interferes with the instructor or presenter's ability to conduct the class or program, or the ability of others to profit from the class or program. To remain in the vicinity of activity that is disrupting normal university functions when requested to leave by a university official is prohibited. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program at SFA.

Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


Additional Information:

To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings, you will be required to:

1. Undergo criminal background checks for field or clinical experiences on public school campuses; the public school campuses are responsible for the criminal background check; YOU are responsible for completing the information form requesting the criminal background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may not be allowed to complete field or clinical experiences on public school campuses. At that point, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

2. Provide one of the following primary ID documents: passport, drivers license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TExES exams (additional information available...
at [www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/](http://www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/). YOU must provide legal documentation to be allowed to take these mandated examinations that are related to certification/licensing requirements in Texas. If you do not have legal documentation, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

3. Successfully complete state mandated a fingerprint background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

   **For further information concerning this matter, contact Katie Snyder 936-468-1740 or snyderke1@sfasu.edu.**

**IX. Other Relevant Course Information:**

**Acceptable Student Behavior** - Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.