James I. Perkins College of Education  
Department of Education Studies  
Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Educator Preparation Program

SGNL 1301.640 Beginning American Sign Language  
Fall 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>COURSE TIME &amp; LOCATION</th>
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</table>
| J. Lindsey Kennon, Ed.D. | ONLINE – 8 WEEK COURSE  
(See course timeline for Zoom meeting times.) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>OFFICE HOURS</th>
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| ECRC 209T | Virtual Appointments Only  
(Appointments available upon request.) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT INFORMATION</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jlkennon@sfasu.edu">jlkennon@sfasu.edu</a></td>
<td>3 Hours</td>
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(936) 468-5510

Corequisites: None  
Course Fee: None

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf Culture. An emphasis will be placed on the development of basic expressive and receptive skills for simple conversation with Deaf individuals using ASL. A brief history of signs will also be included. **The class will be conducted in ASL, no voice.**

TIME REQUIREMENT

SGNL 1301 (3 credits) meets via Zoom and Brightspace (D2L) for the Fall 2020 term. A combination of Zoom meetings and online content comprise the 8-week course, in order to make the course flexible for the unique semesters falling under the COVID-19 pandemic time period. A two-hour final examination will be given. Students have significant 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 (minimum) signed autobiography. These activities average 6 hours minimum of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

James I. Perkins College of Education Diversity Statement

II. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Program Learning Outcomes  
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for non-majors are addressed in this course. However, the following PLO is addressed in this course for those students who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing majors/educator candidates:

**PLO X** The teacher of deaf or hard-of-hearing students demonstrates proficiency in the communication modalities specific to the language needs/preferences of learners.
Student Learning Outcomes
SGNL 1301 adheres to the Standards for Learning American Sign Language set forth by the American Sign Language Teachers Association (www.aslta.org). This is a general education course and there are no key assessments collected in this course related to SLOs.

Core Curriculum Outcomes
SGNL 1301 is a general education core course. The core curriculum at Stephen F. Austin State University seeks to equip students with the broad intellectual foundations needed to live satisfying lives, to ready themselves for advanced study, to contribute significantly to society and to succeed in a diverse global community. In the service of these objectives, the mission of the core curriculum is to develop students’ abilities to think in disciplined, critical, quantitative and creative ways, and to communicate effectively.

III. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

SIGNED EXAMS (2 @ 50 Pts. Each)
- There are two major exams NOT including the Final Exam.
- Each exam will contain fingerspelling, vocabulary, and signed sentences.
- Each exam is cumulative. You will need to retain all learned vocabulary at the time of each exam.
- All exams will be signed. Students are expected to write the intent and meaning using proper English grammar (ASL glossing is not appropriate, as ASL is not a written language.)
- No make-up exams will be given for any unexcused absences. NO EXCEPTIONS. Plan ahead, prepare, and be responsible. If you do not attend a scheduled exam, a grade of zero (0) will be recorded. If you are late to a scheduled exam, you are welcome to complete as much of the exam as possible with the remaining time. Time will not be extended to accommodate tardiness.
- Should you miss an exam for an excused absence (death in the immediate family, illness requiring doctor visit and/or hospitalization, etc.), contact the instructor immediately, preferably prior to the missed exam, to reschedule. Documentation will be required and verified for all excused exam absences.
- Exams will be conducted via Zoom, and are computer-based. Exams will include a strict beginning and ending time, with an enforced time limit.
- EXAM 1
  - Manual Alphabet/Fingerspelling
  - Units 1 & 2 Vocabulary
  - Signed Sentences
- EXAM 2
  - Manual Alphabet/Fingerspelling
  - Units 1, 2, 3, & 4 Vocabulary
  - Signed Sentences

UNIT REVIEW HOMEWORK VIDEOS (4 @ 25 points each)
- Following each Unit, students will complete the Unit Review section.
- Student will video responses and upload to GoReact for assessment.
- Label/Name your Unit Review with the unit name, your first and last name, and your section number (.640). See example:
  - Unit 1 Review – John Smith.640
- See timeline for due dates.
- Instructions for each Unit Review can be found under the Unit Review Homework tab in Brightspace/D2L.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY VIDEO PROJECT (EXPRESSIVE) (1 @ 100 points)
- By the end of the term, students will be able to briefly give an autobiography using the signs and language learned over the term as a culminating expressive assessment.
- Students will video themselves signing their autobiography and upload to GoReact.
IV. EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE ITEM</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Review Homework Videos (4)</td>
<td>25 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autobiography Video Project</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
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GRADE SCALE
(Calculate your percentage by adding up your total earned points and dividing by 400.)
90 – 100% A  80 – 89% B  70 – 79% C  60 – 69% D  59% & Below F
(Reminder: A grade of B or better is required in this course in order to continue coursework in the program. All assignments must be completed in order to receive any grade but an F.)

V. TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>COURSE ACTIVITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Course Orientation</td>
<td>• View Recorded Orientation Zooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/24/20</td>
<td>Manual Alphabet</td>
<td>• Begin Viewing Unit 1 Lessons</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fingerspelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>• Unit 1 Review Video (GoReact Upload)</td>
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<td>8/31/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>• View Unit 2 Lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/7/20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>• Unit 2 Review Video (GoReact Upload)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14/20</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Exam 1 (D2L)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>• View Unit 3 Lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/21/20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>• Unit 3 Review Video (GoReact Upload)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/28/20</td>
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<td>• Exam 2 (D2L)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• View Autobiography Module</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>• View Unit 4 Lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/5/20</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Unit 4 Review Video (GoReact Upload)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Continue Work in Autobiography Module</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Final Exam &amp; Project</td>
<td>• Autobiography Video Project (GoReact Upload)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/12/20</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Final Exam (Due 10/14/20 by 5:00 p.m.)</td>
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The course timeline is tentative and is subject to change throughout the semester due to instructional need, as determined by the instructor. Updates will be posted on D2L and students will be notified of any changes.
VI. TEXTBOOK & INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Signing Naturally 1 – 6 ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION
- https://www.dawnsign.com/subscribe/signing-naturally-1-6
- Select the 6-Months option, as you will ONLY need the videos and not the workbook/ebook.
- The 6-month subscription is $24.99.

GoReact Account
- https://get.goreact.com/
- Click “Sign Up” on the homepage, search for our course (SGNL 1301.640 Fall 2020) under my name (Lindsey Kennon).

VII. COURSE EVALUATIONS

Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the Perkins College of Education electronically evaluate courses taken within the PCOE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including:
1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and
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. Please know that the PCOE 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
(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. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three Modules of absences during a semester or one Module of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

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, 936-468-3004 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.

**Face Coverings (Masks)**
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.
IX. OTHER RELEVANT COURSE INFORMATION

If you believe there is an error in your final grade, contact the instructor immediately so that your concern can be resolved in a timely manner. The procedure for formal appeals is detailed in the Academic Appeals by Students Policy.