College of Liberal and Applied Arts  
Department of Languages, Cultures & Communication  
SGNL 1301.003, CRN: 16420  
Beginning American Sign Language  
Fall 2021 (Fall I)

Instructor: Mandy Seybold, M.Ed, MRT  
Office: LAN 412  
Office Phone: 468-1086  
Credits: 3

Course Time and Location: M/W 4-6:30  
Office Hours: M/W 12-1; 3:30-4; T: Virtual 1-3 or by appt.  
Email: mseybold@sfasu.edu  
(For a response within 48 hours you must use this e-mail.)

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. This semester we will meet face-to-face. D2L will have additional support materials for you, as well as a couple of quizzes to complete. Active participation will prepare you for the exams in this course. You must sign along and practice the vocabulary often if you want to do well in this course.

Pre-requisite: You must make a B or better in this course to advance to the next level of ASL.

Time Requirement:
SGNL 1301 “Beginning American Sign Language” (3 credits) meets two times a week face-to-face in 150-minute segments for 8 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination within that 8-week period. 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.

Communication:
E-mails: Any email sent M-F will receive a response within 48 hours. Please use email posted above. If you email me through the D2L system, you will not receive a response as quickly.

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.

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives: (Program/Student Learning Outcomes)

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, finger-spelling 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
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</table>
### Teamwork
To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

### Personal Responsibility
To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

### Social Responsibility
To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

### III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:
You are expected to participate in class activities 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.
- Students may not use their voices while in the classroom during “voice off” activities and exams. **Do not use your voice while recording any of your Performance Assignments!**
- Those students exhibiting bad manners will be asked to leave the classroom for the duration of the class.

### EXAM GRADES: Signed EXAMS (Receptive):
- Two major exams: Midterm and Final Exam
- Each exam will contain fingerspelling, old and new material (each test is comprehensive).
- All tests will be signed and **students are expected to write the intent and meaning based on good English grammar.**
- You will have a set time to take both exams, a grade of 0 will be recorded if you do not take your exams by the deadline listed. Please see me WELL in advance (at least one week) for a known conflict, such as university sponsored sports activities, etc.
- You are only allowed to see each signed question TWICE. No exceptions! I will supply the paper for all in-class exams.

**MIDTERM EXAM: Sept. 13 (100 points)**
- Units 1-2
- Finger-spelling
- GLOSS
- Signed sentences incorporating ASL syntax, vocabulary, numbers, and vocabulary from the Signing Naturally DVD.
- You will take this exam in class during our regularly scheduled class time.
- Do not be late! You will not be allowed to see any missed questions if you arrive late to class. Plan accordingly.
- Exams will be graded and put into D2L within 24 hours of taking the exam.

**COMP FINAL EXAM: October 6**
(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, and is all phrases.
- You will take your final exam during your regularly scheduled class time.
• Do not be late! You will not be allowed to see any missed questions if you arrive late to class. Plan accordingly.
• Exams will be graded and put into D2L within 24 hours of taking the exam.

**PERFORMANCE GRADES**

**UNIT Homework:** (100 points each quiz/Performance 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 answers on separate pieces of paper, it does not have to be written in the book.) **Once you complete your homework you will take your homework quiz using your completed homework. You do not actually submit your homework you just use it for your quiz.**

Unit 1 & 2 Homework Quiz **Due Sept. 13:** You will complete the sections of homework listed below. You only have to complete these sections to take your homework quiz. Once you have completed these homework sections, log on to D2L and take the quiz for Unit 1 & 2 Homework. You will need to USE YOUR COMPLETED HOMEWORK in order to do well on this quiz.
For **Unit 1**, please complete the following sections from your *Signing Naturally* textbook and discs: 1:6, 1:7, 1:8, 1:9.
For **Unit 2**, please complete the following sections from your *Signing Naturally* textbook and discs: 2:2, 2:6, 2:7, 2:10.

Unit 3 & 4 Homework Quiz **Due Oct. 4:** You will complete the sections of homework listed below. You only have to complete these sections to take your homework quiz. Once you have completed these homework sections, log on to D2L and take the quiz for Unit 3 & 4 Homework. You will need to USE YOUR COMPLETED HOMEWORK in order to do well on this quiz.
For **Unit 3**, please complete the following sections from your *Signing Naturally* textbook and discs: 3:7, 3:8, 3:10, 3:12.
For **Unit 4**, please complete the following sections from your *Signing Naturally* textbook and discs: 4:1, 4:3, 4:7, 4:14.

**GoReact Signed Assignments**
Each of the following assignments must be signed and submitted. You **MUST** upload this to GoReact 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. To obtain a subscription to GoReact please go to: [www.goreact.com](http://www.goreact.com)

**Describe Me! (100) Due Sept. 6:** 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.

**I Lost It (100) Due Sept. 22** You will tell a story about a time in the past that you lost something. You will tell what you lost, at least 3 places you searched, how long you looked, who you summoned to help, and where you found it. This will be less than 2 minutes in length. Additional materials will be provided to walk you through the process.

**Autobiography (200) Due Oct. 4:** 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 sign 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 minutes in length. Additional lecture materials will be provided to walk you through the process.

**Daily Grades:**

**Materials Check (100) Due Aug. 30:** You cannot be successful in this class and fulfill the needed assignments without your Signing Naturally Textbook, or your GoReact account. You must obtain both of these by Aug. 30. GoReact will alert me when you join, but you will need to bring your book to class by Aug. 30 for me to check off that you have a book to use.
Syllabus Quiz (100) Due Aug. 25 (In Class): You will complete an in-class quiz based on your syllabus. You will need to bring a copy of it with you, or be able to open it on a device to use. I will not print out a copy for you. This should be an easy quiz, but it highlights very important information that I want to make sure you are fully aware of for this course, so you can be successful. If you are absent from class, you will receive a zero on this assignment.

Sign-offs (100) Due Sept. 6: You will have opportunities in class to come up and sign off required lists of important vocabulary basics. All of the lists must be signed off by the end of class on Sept. 6. These lists are: manual alphabet, numbers 1-29, colors, question words, your name.

GLOSS Quiz (100) Due Sept. 8: You will complete the quiz in D2L pertaining to GLOSS. There will be a short lecture in class and there is also a review sheet in D2L for you to use as reference. Due by 11:59 PM on the due date listed.

Fingerspelling and Vocabulary Quiz Unit 1 & 2 (100) Due Sept. 8: You will complete one quiz that will have vocabulary from both Unit 1 and Unit 2, as well as have fingerspelling questions. This quiz will be signed in class, and will help prepare you for your exams, and hold you accountable for learning the vocabulary. You must be in class to take this quiz or you will receive a zero.

Fingerspelling and Vocabulary Quiz Unit 3 & 4 (100) Due Sept. 29: You will complete one quiz that will have vocabulary from both Unit 3 and Unit 4, as well as have fingerspelling questions. This quiz will be signed in class, and will help prepare you for your exams, and hold you accountable for learning the vocabulary. You must be in class to take this quiz or you will receive a zero.

IV. EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS:
GRADES WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Grades:</th>
<th>Exam Grades:</th>
<th>Performance Grades:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz- 100</td>
<td>Midterm Exam (Units 1&amp;2)- 100</td>
<td>Describe Me-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Check- 100</td>
<td>Final Exam (Units 1-4)- 200</td>
<td>I Lost It- 100</td>
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<td>Sign Offs- 100</td>
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<td>Autobiography- 200</td>
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<td>GLOSS Quiz- 100</td>
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<td>Homework Quiz Unit 1 &amp; 2-100</td>
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<td>Unit 1 &amp; 2 Quiz- 100</td>
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<td>Homework Quiz Unit 3 &amp; 4-100</td>
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<td>Unit 3 &amp; 4 Quiz- 100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Average x 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam Average x 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Performance Average x 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>D+E+A/4=Final Avg</strong></td>
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Late Submission of Assignments Policy: I understand that sometimes we get a bit behind, however, when learning a language, it is very hard to catch up, especially in an 8-week course. Since each unit we cover builds on each other, late assignments are strongly discouraged. However, late assignments will be accepted up to 1 week after the assignment was due for a grade starting at 70 (70 being the highest you can score) instead of 100. This applies to all assignments, EXCEPT: Syllabus Quiz, Unit Vocabulary Quizzes, Midterm, Autobiography, and Final Exam. These MUST be completed on time. A score of zero will be given for any missing assignments (past the due date), and will be updated if a late submission was made.

V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar:
M 08/23: Syllabus/Manual Alphabet/Numbers/Introductions
W 08/25: Syllabus Quiz/Unit 1 Vocabulary/Unit 1 Practice/Sign-Offs
M 08/30: Materials Check/Unit 1 Vocabulary Review/Phrase Practice/Unit 2 Vocabulary/Sign Offs
W 09/01: Unit 2 Vocabulary/Unit 2 Phrase Practice and Application/Sign-Offs
M 09/06: Describe Me Due/Sign-Offs Due/Review for Units 1 & 2
W 09/08: Review Units 1 & 2/GLOSS Quiz Due to D2L/Unit 1 & 2 Vocabulary Quiz in class
M 09/13: Midterm Exam/Homework Quiz for Units 1 & 2 Due to D2L
W 09/15: Unit 3 Vocabulary/Unit 3 Practice and Application
M 09/20: Unit 3 Vocabulary/Unit 3 Practice Phrases/I Lost It Practice
W 09/22: I Lost It Due to GoReact by 11:59 PM/Unit 4 Vocabulary Introduction
M 09/27: Unit 4 Vocabulary Practice and Application/Autobiography Instructions
W 09/29: Unit 3 & 4 Vocabulary Quiz in class/Unit 1-4 Wrap-up/ Autobiography Practice
M 10/04: Homework Quiz for Units 3 & 4 Due to D2L/Autobiography Due/Final Exam review in class
W 10/06: Final Exam

VI. Readings:
Subscriptions: [www.goreact.com](http://www.goreact.com) (This is what you will use to submit your Performance Assignments)

Assigned Readings and ASL Requirements:
Students use *Signing Naturally* to complete their sign practice, and learn how to GLOSS ASL. D2L contains many resources from lectures, to additional sign language videos, and examples.

Class Participation: You are expected to attend each class and to participate in all class practice activities. You will be voice off for all classroom activities. You will only be allowed to be voice on when asking questions during Q&A opportunities. Diversions will NOT be allowed! You need to make good use of your time, and focus during our classes. **Cell phones need to be put away unless I say otherwise.** 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.

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!”

**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](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:**

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 / 468-1004 (TDD) 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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Mental Health and Wellness**

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

**SFA Counseling Services**

[www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)

Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic**

[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)

Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041

**Crisis Resources:**

Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343

Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Academic Integrity (4.1)**

Please copy and paste the following information regarding Academic Integrity into your syllabus. In addition, you may include your own guidelines for academic integrity as appropriate.

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) 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 your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another
source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, 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. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**IX. Other Relevant Course Information:**

**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.