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. D2L is not a full online class, it is only for supplemental resources to the classroom instruction, and to provide you with additional practice materials only. You must attend class to receive all of the instruction needed to perform well on all assessments.

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.

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
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 critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility requirement. The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.

Core Curriculum Objective Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Through signed student conversations, performance assignments, and receptive exams.</td>
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<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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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 GRADERS: 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: Feb. 7 (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: March 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 by: Feb. 7: 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 Feb. 28: 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. 11:59 PM on the date listed is the cut-off for assignment to be on time. 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 Feb. 5:** 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 Feb. 21:** 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 March 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:**

**Syllabus Quiz (100) Jan. 24:** You will complete a quiz based on your syllabus. You will be allowed to use a copy of the syllabus while taking the quiz. If you do not have a printed one, you may use a device to pull it up during the quiz.

**Sign-offs (100) Feb. 5:** 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 due date listed. These lists are: manual alphabet, numbers 1-29, colors, question words, your name (first and last, with appropriate greeting).

**GLOSS & Deaf Culture Quiz (100) Feb. 21:** You will complete a quiz pertaining to GLOSS and Deaf Culture. There will be a short lecture in class and there is also a review sheet for you to use as reference. This will be completed during class on the due date listed.

**Fingerspelling and Vocabulary Quiz Unit 1 & 2 (100) Due Jan. 31:** 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 Feb. 28:** 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:
GRADERS WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily Grades:</th>
<th>Exam Grades:</th>
<th>Performance Grades:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz- 100</td>
<td>Midterm Exam (Units 1&amp;2)- 100</td>
<td>Describe Me-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign-Offs- 100</td>
<td>Final Exam (Units 1-4)- 200</td>
<td>I Lost It- 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOSS &amp; DC Quiz- 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>Autobiography- 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 &amp; 2 Quiz- 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>Homework Quiz Unit 1 &amp; 2-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 &amp; 4 Quiz- 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>Homework Quiz Unit 3 &amp; 4-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Average x 1</td>
<td>Exam Average x 2</td>
<td>Performance Average x 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D+E+A/4=Final Avg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 01/22: Syllabus/Manual Alphabet/Unit 1 Vocabulary
W 01/24: **Syllabus Quiz/ Unit 1 Vocabulary & Practice**
M 01/29: Unit 1 Vocabulary Review/Phrase Practice/Start Unit 2 Vocab
W 01/31: Unit 2 Phrase Practice/Sign-Offs/ Describe Me Instructions/U1&2 Vocab Quiz in class
M 02/05: Unit 1&2 Application Day/Review of Midterm/Sign-offs Due in class/Describe Me Due to GoReact
W 02/07: **Midterm Exam/Homework Quiz for U1 & U2 Due to D2L**
M 02/12: Unit 3 Vocabulary/Unit 3 Practice and Application
W 02/14: Unit 3 Vocabulary/Unit 3 Practice and Application/I Lost It Practice
M 02/19: Unit 3 Vocabulary Review/GLOSS & Deaf Culture Lecture
W 02/21: Unit 4 Vocabulary/I Lost It due to GoReact/GLOSS & Deaf Culture Quiz due D2L
M 02/26: Unit 4 Vocabulary Practice and Application/Homework Q&A in Class/Autobiography Instructions
W 02/28: Unit 4 Practice/ **U3&4 Vocab Quiz in class/Homework Quiz for U3 & U4 Due to D2L**
M 03/04: Final Exam Review/Scavenger Hunt/Autobiography Due to GoReact
W 03/06: Final Exam

VI. Readings:

Subscription: GoReact: Follow the link that is provided in D2L under Course Materials. (This is what you MUST 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.
Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory for this course. This is an 8-week course, and if you miss a class it is the equivalent of missing two classes of information. I will not reteach material to you that you missed because you were absent. You will need to use the resources in D2L to keep you afloat. You also need to refer to the rules regarding make-up of assignments if you do miss. Very few can be made up. Remember, you must make a B or better in this course to be eligible to take SGNL 1302.

Academic Integrity

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, 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:**

**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741