ASL 507

First Year American Sign Language II
University of Texas at Austin
Spring 2010 - Course Syllabus

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SEMESTER: Spring 2010
COURSE NUMBER: 40920
CLASS DAYS & HOURS: M – F 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.
ROOM: RAS 215
Blackboard: http://courses.utexas.edu

Course Description: ASL 507 is a second-semester American Sign Language (ASL) course that emphasizes not only language mastery but also the understanding of Deaf culture, specifically its cultural values, attitudes, beliefs, social norms, and history.

Course study includes ASL grammatical structures, non-manual behaviors, vocabulary and classifiers, fingerspelling and numbers, communication skills (conversations and discussions), and other language functions. Most of the learning activities are based on the text, *Signing Naturally Level 1*, Units 8-12 and 17. These activities will include interactive activities such as describing others, making requests, talking about family and occupations, attributing qualities to others, talking about routines and talking about weekend activities. Supporting studies include attendance of Deaf events, film and video viewing, ASL literary readings, and other analytical activities.

Prerequisite: ASL 506 or equivalent with a grade of C or higher.

Course Rationale: American Sign Language is the language of a sizable minority, estimates range from 500,000 to two million speakers in the U.S. alone. In addition, Deaf Canadians use ASL. For more information, you can look at the website: http://library.gallaudet.edu/Library/Deaf_Research_Help/Frequently_Asked_Questions_(FAQs)/Sign_Language/ASL_Ranking_and_Number_of_Speakers.html..

Textbooks:

Required:

- ***Signing Naturally Level 1:*** Student workbook and DVD by Smith, Lentz, and Mikos.
- ***For Hearing People Only, 3rd Edition:*** by Moore & Levitan.
- **ASL 507 Course packet** – @ Speedway - Dobie Mall

References:

- **http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm**
- **www.laits.utexas.edu/asl506/** Username: asl506 Password: announce it in class. ***Units 8 - 12***
- **www.laits.utexas.edu/asl507** ***Unit 17***

Course requirements: Signing Naturally 1 textbook review for the first exam. Spring semester: Unit 8 - 12 & 17 (following this order)

COURSE GOALS:

A) Communication

1. Grammatical Features
   a. Students will demonstrate mastery of target, content-specific commands, questions, and statements in ASL, both non-manual behaviors and manual signs.
   b. Students will be able to sign and comprehend short dialogues/complete short sentences in ASL as directed by the lecturer.
2. Vocabulary Development
   a. Given a set of targeted vocabulary items derived from Units 8-12 & 17, of *Signing Naturally*. and videos, students will show mastery of vocabulary items through class activities and assessments.
3. Conversational Skills
   a. Students will demonstrate comprehension and conversation facilitating behaviors.
   b. Students will demonstrate comprehension and production of regulating behaviors (i.e. attention getting techniques, turn taking signals, and others)
   c. Students will demonstrate comprehending short narratives and stories in ASL told by the instructor.

B) Cultural Awareness

1. Students will gain an understanding of American Sign Language as indigenous to Deaf culture through the use of print resources and videos.

2. Students will observe, identify, discuss, and use simple patterns of behavior for interacting in various settings, such as classroom activities, videotexts, the use of resources, etc.

3. Students will observe, identify, discuss, and use appropriate communication strategies for greeting and leave-taking, attention getting, and use of names (i.e., name signs) in classroom activities.

4. Students will observe and discuss the historical and current role of technology in the Deaf culture. (See the Connections)

C) Connections

1. Students will understand the use of technology to access and exchange information with and within the Deaf community.

D) Comparisons

1. Students will recognize differences and similarities between spoken languages and the visual/conceptual structure of American Sign Language, including inflections, questions, negatives, statements, etc.

E) Community

1. Students will attend social functions/events in which members of the Deaf community are present and write report.

Pass-Fail: Please note that you are taking this course for a grade. A Pass-fail grade is not an option in this class. **We have our own VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS. I DON'T FEEL THERE IS ANY BASIS FOR COMPARING MY CLASS with other classes. I don't tolerate anyone cheating on exams or assignments. I have my own expectations from the students. Each of us has to establish standards for our classes. Mine includes zero tolerance for cheating and very high expectations from my students.**

It is essential that students make every effort to attend every class on time and be prepared to participate in all activities.

Rationale: This is a skill developing lab course involving group and individual practice and skill development using visual/gestural stimuli. There is no way to make up an absence. Missing class or being late to class truly hinders your progress. The skills you need in this class depend on visual perception and memory. Use of auditory stimuli inhibits this learning process of both the person talking and other students in the class. In this class, students will experience cross-cultural interaction between Deaf and Hearing people. It is important that students recognize and respect this sensitive area and the Deaf person's resentment at the discriminatory and thoughtless use of voice in his/her presence.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICPATION: ***Anytime you miss a class, it is your responsibility to check Blackboard to see if you were counted absent. Please see me if the record is not correct.***

Attendance Policy: Beginning **January 22nd**, participation will be graded in the following manner:

You should plan to attend class faithfully, inasmuch as the material covered in class and participation in class discussion are vital to your performance in this course. Attendance will be taken every class period. You should check periodically with me to ensure that we agree on your number of absences. You are allowed five (5) absences over the course of the semester. For each absence beyond five (5), your final grade will drop by 5%. For example, if you earned an A with a 92 for the course, but you have six (6) absences, your final grade will be a B (87), regardless of the reason. Use your absences as you see fit; however, use them with discretion. These days are given to you to make accommodations for illnesses, doctors' appointments, observance of religious holy days, etc. A total of three (3) tardies and early departures will be counted as one (1) absence.

The University's policy on the observance of Religious Holy Days can be found at: http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi07-08/ch04/ch04b.html. Observance of Religious Holy Days: Students must notify instructor at least ***14 days*** prior to holy days; otherwise, it will be counted as absence. http://www.interfaithcalendar.org

It is essential that students make every effort to attend each class on time and be prepared to participate in classroom activities. Attention to classroom activities is imperative.

Course Packet/Assignments: Assignments are not optional; they are required to help prepare you for class activities/discussions. Students who fail to produce completed assignments the day they are due that will affect your learning abilities/skills in class. Please be courteous to your homework partners and do your part to develop the activities. For example, how would you feel if you worked hard to finish your part of the homework but your partner didn't take responsibility for their part? Please be respectful of the lecturer and your classmates by doing your work. Also, please bring your *Signing Naturally Student Workbook, course packet, and homework assignments* to class everyday.

Classroom Etiquette: Behaviors such sleeping in class, reading the newspaper, talking/mouthing with classmates, using pagers/cell phones/text messaging devices, listening to iPod music, or doing homework for another class are not acceptable or permitted. This is a skill developing lab course involving group and individual practice and skills development using visual/gestural stimuli.

Social/Cultural Rationale:

Visual Environment: The skills for learning ASL depend on visual perception. The use of auditory stimuli inhibits this visual learning process for both the person talking and for the other students in class. Furthermore, it is important that students recognize and respect a very *sensitive topic* in the

Deaf community; a Deaf person may feel offended at the discriminatory and thoughtless use of voice in her/his presence. Talking with another hearing student without signing when a Deaf person is around is considered rude in the Deaf community. As a member of that community, I, as a Deaf lecturer, will remind students to refrain from using their voices because this ASL course is about the Deaf way of communicating, not the hearing one. Naturally, signed communication makes the Deaf community culturally distinctive, which means norms and values are dissimilar to mainstream hearing culture. Additionally, one of the common questions Deaf people in the larger community tend to ask hearing students, is "Who's your teacher?" and of course it is not an innocent question. One possible reason they may ask such a question is to determine how well you sign, as well as the level of your awareness about Deaf culture. In other words, your ASL skills reflect on me as a Deaf teacher. **NOTE:** Repetition of using voice in class may result in deduction of points and/or the deduction of a letter grade from your final score. If you do not understand me, then PLEASE ask me ANYTIME for clarification.

DEAF CULTURE note: *In class, you will rehearse ways of informing the instructor why you are late, why you are leaving early, and why you missed class. These are not to be viewed as giving excuses but rather viewed as a way of communication. So, please apply this method each time it occurs.*

Talking/voicing Policies: Avoid talking or voicing during class time. Once the lecturer enters the classroom, please refrain from using your voice. Talking without signing in the presence of a Deaf lecturer or any Deaf person is considered rude in Deaf culture. Due to the fact that facial expressions are vital in ASL, gum chewing is not permitted during class. Cellular phones, paging devices, radios, CD and tape players/recorders, video cameras and still cameras should not be brought into the classroom without the lecturer's written consent. (If you own a cell phone, please make sure that it is turned off so that it does not disrupt the silence in the classroom.)

THE PACE AND SEQUENCE WILL DEPEND ON PROGRESS MADE IN CLASS.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS: ***No emailed assignments are acceptable. Some criteria attachments will be posted on Blackboard at a later time.***

A. **Ethnographic report**: **(20 points each)** You are required to attend a social events in the Deaf Community: This event will be a cultural observation which means you will only observe the cultural aspects in each event. You may include direct socialization with at least one culturally Deaf person; however, a*s a Beginning Signer, you are NOT obliged or expected to interact directly with Deaf people).* Upcoming social events will be announced in class. If you know of events other than the announced, you **must** seek approval from your instructor before attending. *See the Due Date Sheet for dates of reports.* Your paper should be two-three pages, typed, double-spaced, 0.5 margin on all sides, Arial Narrow, 12 font, and hand in the stapled report on the day it is due. ***See attached criteria for cultural observation report in the course packet *.***

B. **Lab Requirements: Three Movie Quizzes - (20 points each – a total of 60 points**), you are to view THREE (3) DVD movies**,** selected from the given list, and you will have a quiz on each movie afterwards at MEZ 2.10, the Fine Arts Library, or via internet. Please let me know if you can share any findings on the internet that the students might want to watch it at home. Video titles: ***See attached criteria for Movie reports in the course packet*.***

C. **FHPO Quizzes: (25 points each – a total of 50 points)** Both quizzes will be derived from your book "For Hearing People Only". Each quiz will consist of, but is not limited to, True/False, Multiple Choice, and Essays or Short answers. No make-up quizzes will be given unless you have an emergency. **First Quiz (selected chapters from 1-33) and Second Quiz (selected chapters from 34-66).**

D. **Comprehension Quizzes:** (**6 -10 quizzes worth a total of 200 points)** Quizzes will involve items from production and comprehension practices, vocabulary review and questions from the textbooks, ASLOnline1, cultural information, and class notes. *NO make-up quizzes will be given at any time for any reason during this course.* If you are late for half of a quiz during class, then the Lecturer will not provide additional time to complete it so the questions you miss will be counted against you. Also, inappropriate quiz behavior will result in a zero for the quiz or could result in failure of the course. Inappropriate quiz behavior includes: talking, looking around at others, disrupting the class and using notes or books other than approved quiz materials. ***Attention****: I will distribute at between 6 or 10 quizzes, but you need to follow the blackboard total point instead of the total points of this course because I count 10 quizzes points in this syllabus.*

E. **Four - Examinations: (575 points)**

1. **First Exam (100 points)** will be derived from the ***Signing Naturally 1 textbook***: (Unit 1 – 7). COMPREHENSION exams.

2. **Second and Third Exams** will be derived from the text, Signing Naturally, Level One – Units 8 to 11. **(A total of 300 points)**
   - **Two Comprehension portions (100 pts each = a total of 200)**: The Lecturer will sign some sentences/questions, and you write the answer down on your test paper; and
   - **Two Production portions (50 pts each = a total of 100):** You and your partner will sign a teacher-assigned dialogue. Each exam will take a class session to complete on the USB, so plan to drop USB off at my office.
3. **The Fourth exam** will have three portions: comprehension **(100 points),** production **(50 points)** and written exam **(25 points)**. This exam will cover Unit 12 & 17 (from course packet and teacher's lectures). Altogether, it is worth a total of 175 points.

Scranton/Written Exam: the comprehensive written exam will be given at the end of the semester with the last exam. **Your exam will consist of** multiple-choice questions, True/False, Fill in the blank, and essays. Tips: please read Units 8 – 12 and 17 in your textbook and ASLOnline1, and the course packet and readings (stories, language notes, and culture notes) information.

Each exam will take up to a class session to complete, so plan to be here during those class day. ***Be on time for each exam.*** I will administer the exam on time. If you come in late, quietly take a seat and begin your test where I am currently with the rest of the class. Questions that you miss, due to your tardiness, will count against you. Your **third** exam will be given during the **last three days of the semester**. **NO make up exams** will be given!

No extra credit allowed! I cannot offer it to one particular student or group.

No finals will be given early (e.g., flights, weddings, etc.).

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COMPUTE **YOUR GRADE via blackboard** DURING THE SEMESTER. IF YOU NEED SOME ASSISTANCE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEE ME ABOUT YOUR GRADE. ONCE AGAIN, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Grade Breakdown:

Movie Critique Quizzes:	=	60 points
Ethnographic Report:	=	20 points
FHPO Quizzes:	=	50 points
6 -10 Comprehension Quizzes:	=	200 points
4 Exams:	=	575 points
	TOTAL:	**905 possible points**

You will see the percentages/points that blackboard computes the numbers as your current grade in the beginning, middle, and at the end of the semester. You will have 905 possible points to complete this course at the end of the semester. If you have 80% on blackboard, that means your current grade is B-.

A = 100% - 94%	**A - = 93% - 90%**	
B + = 89% - 87%	**B = 86-% - 84%**	**B - = 83%-80%**
C + = 79% - 77%	**C = 76% - 74%**	**C - = 73% - 70%**
D + = 69% - 67%	**D = 66% - 64%**	**D - = 63% - 60%**
F= Below 479 (59% and below)		

* Note: A Grade of D results in ineligibility for any future ASL courses. Therefore you are expected to pass with a C- (70%). Needless to say, you are encouraged to work hard in this class to prepare for your next class!

Resources for Learning & Life at UT Austin

The University of Texas has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning.
The UT Learning Center: http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/
Undergraduate Writing Center: http://uwc.utexas.edu/
Counseling & Mental Health Center: http://cmhc.utexas.edu/
Career Exploration Center: http://www.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/
Student Emergency Services: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/

WEBSITES:

Use of Blackboard for Class

GRADES: To check or review your grades, look up on Blackboard. URL Blackboard: **https://courses.utexas.edu**/ **or** call help desk at 475-9400.

Required University Notices and Policies

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently – I recommend daily, but at minimum twice a week – to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For more information on scholastic dishonesty, please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php.

Documented Disability Statement:

If you require special accommodations, you must obtain a letter that documents your disability from the services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 or 471-4641 (TTY) for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to

me at the beginning of the semester so we can discuss the accommodations you need. No later than five business days before an exam, you should remind me of any testing accommodations you will need. For more information, visit http://www.utexas.edu/diversity.ddce/ssd/.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), AND the University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

Due Dates for ASL 507

Movie Reports:	
1st report:	**Friday, Feb. 5th**
2nd report:	**Friday, Mar. 5th**
3rd report:	**Friday, April 9th**
Ethnographic Report:	
1st report:	**Friday, April 19th**
Quizzes: (For Hearing People Only)	
1st quiz	**Friday, Mar. 12th**
2nd quiz	**Friday, Apr. 16th**
Exams (tentative)	
1st Exam (ASL 506)	**Jan. 25th**
2nd Exam (Unit 8 & 9)	**Feb. 25th & 26th**
3rd Exam (Unit 10 & 11)	**April 1st & 2nd**
4th Exam (Unit 12 & 17)	**May 4th - 7th**

Please read the syllabus, and then sign below for your file. The lecturer will bring her sheet for you to sign it for her file.

I have read the syllabus for ASL 507 and understand all of the policies and requirements as set forth therein.

Printed Name

Signature