

Utah State University
COMD 4910/6910 American Sign Language III

Professor: Brian Burns

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Days:

Glide: bry burns

Office Location: Lillywhite 042

Office Days/Hours: by appointment.

Classroom Location:

(Important) This syllabus may change at the discretion of the course instructor. Changes will be announced in the announcement page in canvas. It is your responsibility to check the announcements.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced American Sign Language course that focuses on **students'** expressive and receptive ASL skill improvement with a heavier emphasis on the expressive use of the language. Special attention is given to clear articulation and ability to discuss more complex and in-depth topics. Course is taught in ASL, with a no-voice, total immersion approach.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND/ OR CED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

As a result of taking this class, students are expected to:

Demonstrate comprehension of more complex ASL by responding appropriately at the intermediate/advanced level.

Exchange information in ASL using short dialogues about everyday life such as describing people and things, making requests and asking for advice, describing places, giving opinions about others, and discussing plans and goals with other students, the instructor, and through video recording activities.

Develop skills in using facial expressions, gestures and specialized handshapes (classifiers) for communication and descriptive purposes.

Maintain a conversation in ASL with native signers using both culturally appropriate content and interpersonal skills, and comprehend basic conversational questions and short discourses.

Develop skills in organizing and delivering narratives in ASL including

- (a) Using the appropriate introduction, body, and conclusion,
- (b) Grammatical markers for transitions,
- (c) Role-shifting between two or more characters, and
- (d) Use of space.

Discuss the view that Deaf people are a cultural-linguistic minority group.

Understand the Deaf community's participation in society, and dispel misrepresentations and stereotypes about them.

Attend ASL and Deaf events to continue to develop ASL and Deaf behavioral norms outside of the classroom.

Required Textbooks and Materials :

Holcomb, T. (2013). Introduction to American Deaf Culture. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199777549

Course Technology Requirements :

A web camera is required. You will need this to record and upload yourself signing for assignments and exams.

- New computers often have a build-in web camera.
- You can purchase a web camera for about \$40-\$100. I recommend Logitech.

Canvas is where the course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- usu.instructure.com
 - Your username is your A#, and your password is your global password (the same one you use for Banner or Aggiemail).
- For Canvas, Password, or any other computer-related technical support contact the IT Service Desk
 - 435-797-4357
 - 877-878-8325
 - it.usu.edu
 - servicedesk@usu.edu

Course Outline:

Introduction to American Deaf Culture

- Deaf Lit
- Deaf Art
- Rule of Social Interaction
- The Vibrant Deaf Community
- The Collision Between Culture and Disability
- Diversity in the Deaf Community
- The Universality of the Deaf Experience
- The Future of the Deaf Community

ASL Topics:

- Lesson 13 - Describing People and Things
- Lesson 14 - Making requests and Asking for Advice

- Lesson 15 - Describing Places
- Lesson 16 - Giving Opinions About Others
- Lesson 17 - Discussing Plans and Goals
- Lesson 18 - iBook (storytelling)

Course Activities:

Readings:

There will be assigned readings for each topic from the book Introduction to American Deaf Culture. You will be accountable for reading materials and assessed for comprehension through assignments, discussions, and quizzes.

Presentations:

Each lesson has accompanying videos presentations and signed example phrases.

Discussions:

You will participate in classroom discussions

Quizzes:

There are number of quizzes associated with the lessons

Assignments:

You will have several assignments due throughout the course of the semester

Course Evaluation and Grading:

Participation in class discussion	20 points
3 skills enhancement exercises (VV, Personification)	150 points
5 quizzes	400 points
8 expressive projects	400 points
5 Deaf Adult interaction	125 points
Final project	100 points
Final Exam (lesson 13-18)	150 points

Grading Scale

91.5 – 100 A	86.5 - 89.4 B+	76.5 - 79.4 C+	66.5 - 69.4 D+
89.5 - 91.4 A-	81.5 - 86.4 B	71.5 - 76.4 C	61.5 - 66.4 D
59.4 - 81.4 B-	69.5 - 71.4 C-	59.5 - 61.4 D-	59.4 or below F

Deadlines:

For the submission of all quizzes, exams and assignments, due dates are located under the calendar tab on the top of the Canvas home page and under the syllabus link on the left of the home page. Make sure you check your calendar and syllabus weekly to ensure you don't miss a deadline. All deadlines are set to 11:59pm on Sundays in your timezone. Extra credit is not available for any student (unless otherwise noted). You receive the grade you earn based on test scores only.

Attendance:

You must schedule a lot of time to watch the videos. Find tips and tricks that work for you to memorize and learn the new vocabulary and sentence structures that will be introduced. Mimic the signer in the video if that helps. Some students like to cover the sentences and write down what the signer signed and compare your notes with the English version. Also some students cover the video and practice signing the sentences. Take some time each day to at least practice fingerspelling.

Makeup tests are not given. Any test missed will result in a zero. If an emergency causes you to miss a test, you must contact your instructor to explain the situation to see if accommodations are appropriate.

Technology policy and issues:

Problems with technology are not an acceptable excuse for late submission of your assignments. You **MUST** assume that technology will fail you at some point. You cannot and should not assume that everything will go smoothly when it comes to the internet, Canvas (e-learning course management tools), and computers. It is incumbent upon you to **PLAN AHEAD** and not leave your projects for the last possible moment.

Cellphone and other media/devices in class:

American Sign Language is a visual and gestural language, it is essential that you **WATCH** the instruction in class. Checking your phone in class is not only a distraction to yourself and others but also to your instructor. Do not use phones or other devices during class unless the professor has directed you to do so. Keep your devices **OFF** or on **VIBRATE**. If I see you on your phone, I will ask you to step out of the class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.