

# COMD 4920 American Sign Language IV

## Linguistics of ASL

### Course Syllabus

#### Contact Information:

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS:

#### Course Description

This course is designed to teach the basic concepts of linguistics as they pertain to American Sign Language. The fundamental areas of linguistic inquiry (phonology, morphology, syntax, and the use of language) will be introduced and compared/contrasted with the phonological, morphological, syntactical, and sociolinguistic structures of ASL. The course is designed for students who are already proficient in American Sign Language.

#### Course Objectives

- To introduce fundamental ideas about languages as unique communication systems;
- To introduce the basic concepts of linguistics as they pertain to American Sign Language;
- To introduce the basic parts of signs and to lay the foundation for the examination of the different aspects of ASL morphology and ASL syntax;
- To introduce variation and historical change, discourse, bilingualism, and language contact.

#### Required Textbook:

Valli, Clayton and Lucas, Ceil. (2000) **Linguistics of American Sign Language**. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press.

#### Course Requirements:

1. Completion of all examinations.
2. Stay current with assigned readings, and be prepared to lead class discussions related to these readings.
3. Stay current with the assigned viewings of selected videotapes that will pertain to the structure, and unique linguistic features of American Sign Language.
4. Students should note that all lectures will be given in ASL and that ASL will be the language used in class discussions.
5. Two written examinations will be given in this course: a mid-term examination and the final. Each examination will be worth 100 points.

6. A major group research paper, which will be worth 100 points, will be turned in no later than one week before the first day of final exams. Note that a grade will be given for both content and writing skills (grammar, spelling, punctuation, and wording). One-half point will be taken off for each writing skills error.
7. Students registered for ComD 6910, receiving graduate credit must prepare presentations on assigned topics.

### **Grading policy:**

The following grading scale will be followed:

90-92=A- 93-100=A 87-89=B+ 83-86=B 80-82=B- 77-79=C+

73-76=C 70-72=C- 67-69=D+ 63-66=D 60-62=D- Below 60=F

Note: An “A” grade indicates an outstanding job, exceptional insight and creativity. Only excellent papers, presentations, and projects that exceed minimal requirements and indicate a great amount of time and effort will be awarded an “A” grade.

### **UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

#### **Academic Dishonesty**

The Instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University’s Student Code:

Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- Cheating using or attempting to use or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity, including working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually”;
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
  - Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
- Falsification: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- Plagiarism: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

## Students with Disabilities

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Please contact the DRC prior to or as early in the semester as possible. Alternate formats for course content are available with advanced notice.

### Contacting the Disability Resource Center (DRC):

- Location in Room 101 of the University Inn.
- Phone Numbers
- 435-797-2444 voice
- <http://www.usu.edu/drc/>
  
- [Campus Resources](#)
- [Documentation Guidelines](#)
- [Online Resources for Students with Disabilities](#)

## Diversity Statement

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact

- Moises Diaz, Director of Multicultural Student Services (435) 797-1733 <mailto:moises.diaz@usu.edu>;
- James Morales, Vice President of Student Services (435) 797- 1712 [james.morales@usu.edu](mailto:james.morales@usu.edu);
- Ann Austin, Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity, <mailto:ann.austin@usu.edu>;
- Maure Smith, GLBTA Services, <mailto:maure.smith@usu.edu>;
- Steven Russell, Student Advocate (435) 797-1720 <mailto:s.r.@aggiemail.usu.edu>.
- You can learn about your student rights by visiting: <http://www.usu.edu/student-services/studentcode>.

## Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code:

<http://www.usu.edu/student-services/pdf/StudentCode.pdf> - page=3

(Article VII. Grievances, pages 27-36).