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. The class will be conducted in ASL, no voice.

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

CORE VALUES OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
This course reflects the following core values of the College of Education (see the COE Conceptual Framework at www.sfasu.edu/education/about/accreditations/ncate/conceptual):
- Academic excellence through critical, reflective, and creative thinking
- Life-long learning
- Collaboration and shared decision-making
- Openness to new ideas, to culturally diverse people, and to innovation and change
- Integrity, responsibility, diligence, and ethical behavior
- Service that enriches the community

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.

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.”

III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:
You are expected to participate in class activities, perform on group exercises, 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.
Those students exhibiting bad manners will be asked to leave the classroom for the duration of the class.

**Signed EXAMS (Receptive):** (3 @ 100 Points Each)

- Three major exams.
- Each exam will contain fingerspelling, old and new material (each test comprehensive).
- All tests will be signed and **students are expected to write the intent and meaning using good English grammar**.
- If you do not show up to an exam, a grade of 0 will be recorded, except for a **documented emergency**. Please see me WELL in advance (at least one week) for a known conflict, such as university sponsored sports activities, etc.
- Should you miss an exam for an unexcused absence (skipping class, alarm “not going off”, being late for an exam, etc) your grade will BE A ZERO for the missed exam. **NO EXCEPTIONS AT ALL. Plan ahead and be smart.**
- Should you miss an exam for an EXCUSED absence (death in the immediate family, illness requiring doctor visit and /or hospitalization, etc.) See me the day you return to reschedule.

**EXAM 1: February 15**

- Units 1-2
- Finger-spelling
- Signed sentences incorporating ASL syntax, vocabulary, numbers, and vocabulary from the Signing Naturally DVD.

**EXAM 2: Mar. 7**

- Units 1-3
- Signed sentences incorporating ASL syntax, vocabulary, numbers, finger-spelling, and vocabulary from the DVD.
- Non-Traditional Assessment Format

**EXAM 3: Apr. 11**

- Units 1-4
- The comprehensive final exam is comprised of 15 phrases that will be signed in ASL. You must write the meaning in proper English. The instructor will provide the exam response sheet.

**UNIT Homework:**
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.

**Sign-Offs:** Student will sign off to the instructor for 25 points for each of the following sign sets.

Alphabet/Fingerspelling Name
Colors
Numbers 1-30
Question Words

*You will sign off to the instructor before or after class within the time windows given. **All of these are due by the time you leave class on February 22.**

**Pop Quizzes:** Student will complete pop quizzes that will be given within the units.

Each pop quiz will be worth 100 points, and will go towards your Daily Average. You MUST be in attendance to take the quiz. Make-up quizzes will not be given for missing class.

**Signing Activities (in class) worth 100 points total:**
You will have several in class games and activities. We have many games that go with each unit. These are all worth points, and you must be in attendance in order to earn the points for the activity. These cannot be made up if you are absent.
Various Games are: Guess Who, Bingo, Picture This, I Have Who Has, Telephone, and Scavenger Hunt

**The Three Pigs: Group Project (100 Points towards Daily Average):**

- **Practice 1**
  - Rough walk through of the whole story.
  - Video Based
- **Practice 2**
  - Focus on improving vocabulary production, facial expression.
  - Students will work in small groups.
- **Performance**
  - Each group will perform their version of Three Little Pigs for the class.

**Autobiography: Due April 13:** 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 tell 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 assignment will be completed using GoReact. This is due by the due date, no exceptions!

**Assigned Readings and Videos:** Students will read the books of *Apply is My Sign, For Hearing People Only,* and watch the video of *Through Deaf Eyes*

- For Hearing People Only- **Due March 23:** These quizzes will be completed online through D2L. The average of the exams will be calculated for your point total. All of these are due by March 23. This is a max total of 100 points, and will be counted as a Test Grade.

- **Apple is My Sign- February 22:** This will be an open book quiz in class for 100 points toward your daily average.

- **Through Deaf Eyes- February 15:** This video will be shown in one to two parts and in class. You will earn 50 points for coming to the class that it is shown, and paying attention to the video. The dates for the video will be determined once Unit 2 vocabulary is complete.

**COMP FINAL EXAM:** May 9 (100 points - Counts TWICE)

- The comprehensive final exam is comprised of a calendar you will have to fill out according to what is signed. The instructor will provide the exam response sheet.
- You MUST show up on the scheduled final day.

**Class Participation:** Successful class interactions depend on prepared and present communicators! You are expected to attend each class and to participate in all class discussions and activities. This includes actively listening, asking and answering questions, expressing your opinion. Diversions due to personal notes, visiting, or working on day planners, are not considered appropriate and will be addressed when observed. **Cell phones are to be turned off during class (not on vibrate). Texting during class (reading, composing, or sending messages) is NOT accepted** and will be addressed as observed. 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.

**IV. EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GRADES WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Grades: (some of these are...)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework/Sign-offs</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Three Little Pigs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar:

Jan
M 01/25- Syllabus; Procedures; Gloss; Manual Alphabet; Introduce Yourself; Start Unit 1 Vocabulary

Feb
M 02/1- Finish Unit 1, Start Unit 2 Vocabulary and Class Activity
M 02/8- Finish Unit 2 Vocabulary and Review for Test #1
M 02/15- Test #1; Watch Through Deaf Eyes
M 02/22- Apple is My Sign Book Test; Start Unit 3 Vocabulary; All Sign-offs are due!
M 02/29- Unit 3 Vocabulary and Practice; Review for Test

Mar
M 03/7- Test #2 (Unit 1-3)
M 03/14- No Class: Spring Break
M 03/21-Unit 4 Vocabulary; Start Three Pigs Practice
M 03/28- For Hearing People Only Quizzes DUE by 11:59 pm!

Apr
M 04/4- Unit 4 Vocabulary; Three Pigs Practice and Performance in groups; Autobiography Instructions
M 04/11- Test #3 (Units 1-4); Autobiography Questions and Practice

W 04/13- Autobiographies due by 11:59 pm; Upload to GoReact
M 04/18- Unit 5 Vocabulary and Practice
M 04/25- Class Activities and Scavenger Hunt

May
M 05/2- Review for Final Exam
M 05/9- Final Exam

VI. Readings:


GoReact account ($15.00):
2. Your instructor will send you a link or invitation so you can join the correct course.

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!

In the Perkins College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. 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

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: Policy 6.1 and 6.6
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 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/.

Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or;
- 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 one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or,
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty
Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university

Student Appeals
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

**Withheld Grades: Policy 5.5**
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. 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 iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at [https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp](https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp) or call the office at 936-468-2703.

**Additional Information:**

**To complete Certification/Licensing Requirements in Texas related to public education and other professional settings, you will be required to:**

1. Undergo criminal background checks for field or clinical experiences on public school campuses; the public school campuses are responsible for the criminal background check; YOU are responsible for completing the information form requesting the criminal background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may not be allowed to complete field or clinical experiences on public school campuses. At that point, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

2. Provide one of the following primary ID documents: passport, drivers license, state or providence ID cards, a national ID card, or military ID card to take the TExES exams (additional information available at [www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/](http://www.texas.ets.org/registrationBulletin/) ). YOU must provide legal documentation to be allowed to take these mandated examinations that are related to certification/licensing requirements in Texas. If you do not have legal documentation, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

3. Successfully complete state mandated a fingerprint background check. If you have a history of criminal activity, you may want to reconsider your major while at SFASU.

**For further information concerning this matter, contact Katie Snyder 936-468-1740 or snyderke1@sfasu.edu.**

**IX. Other Relevant Course Information:**

**Attendance:** Attendance is IMPERATIVE for success in this course! Class discussion and participation is critical as well. Excessive absences will adversely affect your ability to perform well on exams. **No make up work will be given for any absence not approved as an excused absence by the university.** Additionally, excessive absences cheat you of your education (and money!)
I understand you are busy and “things come up”. However, I expect you in class, for the entire class. For this reason, attendance is one-fourth of your final grade. Please see the breakdown of points below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absence</th>
<th>Points Deducted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dropped from course</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Those that do not miss a class will receive 100 points for this portion of their grade. If you have to leave early, this means you are not in attendance for the entire class, and will lose points accordingly.

Acceptable Student Behavior - Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. 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. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.