

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

American Sign Language I Summer I 2008

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the student to basic knowledge about American Sign Language and deaf people. Emphasis in the course is upon acquisition of both comprehension and production skills as well as upon knowledge of the deaf community and the development of cultural awareness necessary for maximal communication interaction. The student will begin with visual readiness activities and then progress through a group of targeted lexical items taught within meaningful contexts that stress use of questions, statements, commands and conversational rules such as attention-getting and turn-taking. Basic fingerspelling skills will also be stressed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor's Name: Robert Blair
Office hours: after class
Email address: rwb003@shsu.edu

CLASS INFORMATION

Days: Monday-Friday
Times: 12:00-1:50
Location: Evans 313

CREDITS

3 Credits Hours

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Moore & Levitan.
For Hearing People Only
3rd ed. Deaf Life Press, 2003.

PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The student's learning outcomes will include but not limited to

1. Have a receptive and expressive skill without the use of voice.
2. Have a fingerspelling skill.
3. Understand the principle of ASL grammatical rules.
4. Demonstrate an ability to improve signing fluency.
5. Demonstrate to participate in-group discussions and role-play practices.
6. Understand the cultural behaviors.
7. Increase awareness of cultural behaviors in the Deaf Community.

STYLE

This course has two delivery methods: BLACKBOARD for information inside and outside class meetings and a SEMINAR-STYLE, student-centered, format in class meetings with a professor lecture. Both Receptive and Expressive signing will be used in the class. American Sign Language will be the preferred language in class. Since language is a social skill and activity, this is the only way to effectively learn. In American Sign Language, mistakes are natural--tolerance and assistance are the watchwords. Be flexible--think of another way to send the same message if you get "stuck."

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Please refer to <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Please refer to Academic Policy Statement 810213.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

YOUR ENROLLMENT IN THIS CLASS CONSTITUTES YOUR LEGAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO THE HONOR CODE. Because this course is a listening (receptive signing), speaking (expressive signing), reading, and writing one, I encourage you to work together. **HOWEVER, plagiarism--copying others' work with out crediting them for it--is legally and ethically unacceptable--AND GROUNDS FOR FAILURE, NOT JUST IN THE ASSIGNMENT, BUT IN THE CLASS.** Paraphrases, as well quotes, and must be documented. See the article, *Plagiarism*, posted in documents in Blackboard.

PHILOSOPHY

This is a UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACADEMIC COURSE WITH APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS. You earn your grade on that basis. You do not receive university credit for "gender and/or ethnic consciousness" or language ability per se. Academic credit is based upon your intellectual and academic efforts, willingness and ability to reflect upon and respond to requirements of the class.

INTERACTION

RESPECT FOR OTHERS' VIEWS AND SPACE, not necessarily in agreement with one's own, is required on the part of every participant, including what is expressed, shared, etc., in the course of class interaction.

CELL PHONES & PAGERS

Please refer to Section 5.2.22 of the Code of Conduct.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. The students should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, and then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the counseling Center.**

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

POLICES ON ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP WORK

1. Without attending the class regularly, you will definitely get behind period. Please attend all sessions and be on time.
2. Participate fully in classroom discussion and activities. (No one will be an observer.)
3. Abide the "Immersion" Philosophy and refrain from using voice, English mouthing or other sign system in class at anytime. Monitoring of this expectancy will be the responsibility of every student in this class. Voice interpreting for other students is not permitted! If you don't understand the instructor, simply **ASK!**
4. Complete all assignments set forth by the instructor.
5. There will be no make-up of the exams, quizzes, and project. Everyone will take them as scheduled. No exceptions will be made.

IMMERSION PHILOSOPHY

The Immersion Philosophy will be used as a means of instruction and will be reinforced. Since the eyes, not the ears, are used in receiving information in ASL, the students are instructed not to speak or whisper in class.

The reasons for the Immersion Philosophy

1. Insuring that ASL is the only mode used to learn and communicate with.
2. Confirming that ASL and Spoken English don't mesh well when using simultaneously.
3. Using ASL, equal access to information in the classroom is possible for all.
4. Using eyes only, visual acuity and awareness of surrounding will increase.
5. Speaking in class will defeat the purpose of sharpening one's receptive and expressive skills needed to process in information in ASL.
6. Using one's voice can become quite distracting and disrupt other student's learning process and flow thoughts in ASL.
7. Speaking in front of Deaf persons is a sign of disrespect if Spoken English is being used in their presences. Alas, it is rude to shut them out in the cold.

The student who violates this will be given a warning. If the behavior is repeated, s/he will be asked to leave the classroom immediately and to return to the next class session. If this situation occurs during a quiz or exam, s/he receives a "0". If the behavior continues despite warnings, the student will meet with the instructor to discuss her/his future in the ASL I course.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Course Requirements:

FHPO Quiz	10 points
Biography Project	20 points
Quizzes (4) 5 points each	20 points
Exams (4) 10 points each	40 points
Participation	<u>10 points</u>
Total	100 points

Grades:

90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
0 - 59 = F

FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY READINGS (FHPO)

You are required to read Unit 1 to 30 during this semester. There will be a quiz on all 30 units in the end of the semester.

BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

You are required to do a biography presentation in the class. Requirements and rubrics will be discussed later in the semester.

Enjoy yourself!