

**INTRODUCTION TO SIGNED LANGUAGE  
SPRING 2016**

**Monday/Wednesday 3:00 – 4:15 SIGN 201/501 CRN 22526**

**Instructor:** Barbara M. Flett RID CI/CT NM Community Interpreter License  
BS/ Education MA/Multicultural Special Education

**Office Hours:** Academic Bldg. - Adjunct Staff Room M/W (by appointment)

**Phone:** \*Text Only\*: 480-0731 Home- NM Relay 711 864-8798 v/t **bflett@unm.edu**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Signed languages and signing systems frequently used by deaf people are discussed. Cross-linguistic and cross-cultural information on ASL will be discussed. Focus is on ASL, signed English and fingerspelling, and the most common manually coded signed systems. In addition to the acquisition of basic vocabulary and grammar, this course emphasizes knowledge of the characteristics, values and cultural and linguistic diversity of the Deaf Culture. Additional activities and topics may include: discussions of challenges facing families with deaf members, singing/music in signed language, number subsets in ASL, historical and linguistic background of ASL and pioneers of ASL linguistic research.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *A Basic Course in American Sign Language*, Humphries, Padden, O'Rourke, TJ Publishers: Silver Spring, Maryland.

**Learning to See:** *American Sign Language as a Second Language*, Wilcox and Wilcox

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To be able to communicate-expressively and receptively- on a basic level with Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals representing a cross-section of the deaf community.
  2. To understand the basic problems and implications of deafness.
  3. To be familiar with the differences between American Sign Language (ASL) and manually coded systems.
  4. To become aware of one's own signing limitations and capabilities
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<b>Graded Activity</b>	<b>Target Dates 2016</b>	<b>Percentage Worth</b>
Exam # 1 (written/receptive).....	Wednesday Mar 2.....	15% and 15%
Exam # 2 (receptive).....	Wednesday Apr 6.....	15%
Partner Reports/Class Participation/Songs/Dialogues/.....		5%
<b>Weekly Reports due by EMAIL in LEARN before 7 PM Wednesdays beginning February 3.</b>		
Final Exam (written/receptive).....	Wednesday May 4.....	10% and 10%
Final Exam (expressive).....	Wednesday May 11.....	30%

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**\*\*\*\*\*UNM STUDENT EMAIL\*\*\*\*\***

**Please maintain and check your UNM email, notices and reminders will be posted as needed through UNM LEARN.**

**\*\*\*\*\*STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES\*\*\*\*\***

Students must inform instructor of special needs and provide the necessary university paperwork as soon as possible to ensure that those needs are met in a timely manner. Call 925-8560 or go to website <http://www.unm.edu/~vcadvise/equalaccess.htm>

**\*\*Use of Electronic Devices (cell phones/recording audio & video) is not permitted in class.**

**\*\*No Food or drinks in Classrooms/VC policy.**

## CLASS PARTICIPATION

*Class participation is essential in this class.* Those who **participate regularly and well** will benefit. If they are within one point of the next higher grade level, they will earn the higher grade. For example, if a student had an 89 average and had participated regularly and well he/she would receive an A- rather than a B+ for the course.

This does not apply for grades between an A and an A+.

## PARTNER REPORTS

Requirements outside classroom participation: selection of a partner from within the class. The pair must meet a minimum of twenty minutes each week to practice signing without their voices. A written report is expected from each partner specifying location of practice, time, and a brief summary and both signatures. **Reports are collected weekly throughout the semester.**

**No partner reports will be accepted late.**

## DEAF/HH VISITORS

Deaf/HH children and adults from the community are invited to attend the class to add input and to make certain that no stereotyped image of the “typical” deaf person prevails. Students will be asked to prepare questions for these dates that will be announced later in the semester.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Handouts:

Brief history of sign language. Descriptions of manually coded sign systems

Various articles on mainstreaming, linguistics of ASL, or other appropriate material

Videotapes: “A Basic Course in American Sign Language” Tape #1 (on reserve in the library)

## STUDENT BEHAVIOR

While the instructor does not expect problems when working with adult learners, a guiding principle of respect for one another will ensure a safe and productive environment. Interruptions with non-related comments are discouraged. There may be issues a student needs to discuss that would be more appropriately handled in private and outside of the classroom. No Toleration policy for obscene language, sexual harassment, and threatening behavior towards students or instructor. There is a process in place to handle complaints...report to The Chair of CHESS and to the Dean of Instruction.

## EXAMS

Students are eligible to take a make-up exam [written only] if they (in UNM handbook)

1. Have an emergency that prevents them from taking the regularly scheduled exam;
2. Alert the instructor to the emergency prior to the regularly scheduled exam
3. Obtain the instructor’s agreement that this is an emergency and that the regularly scheduled exam cannot be taken.

Make-up receptive exams are strongly discouraged due to the nature of sign language and the fairness to those who attended the scheduled test.

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## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students found cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero for the exam or assignment in question.

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**GRADING CHART** Grades are determined from the total test scores accumulated, signing skills, class participation, and weekly partner reports.

98-100 : A+

**Students must have a 98-100 average and do an extra credit paper in order to qualify for an A+ for the course.**

94 - 97: A  
90 – 93: A-  
88 – 89: B+  
84 – 87: B  
80 – 83: B-  
78 – 79: C+  
74 – 77: C  
70 – 73: C-  
68 – 69: D+  
64 – 67: D  
60 – 63: D-  
0 – 59: F

The grade of **INCOMPLETE (INC)** is given only when extenuating personal circumstances prevent completing the work by the official ending date of the course (as per UNM Faculty Handbook).

### **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each session.

**Students with two (2) or more consecutive absences or three (3) or more regular absences may be dropped from the class by the instructor. \*\*\*Student's grades will be affected by absences, dropping half a grade for every three absences.**

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Copy this to email...fill it out weekly send to me on Thur...VC Partner Report

**Submitted by** \_\_\_\_\_

Partner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Material studied:

Vocabulary \_\_\_\_\_

Grammar \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Problems \_\_\_\_\_

**Positive Feedback** for Partner \_\_\_\_\_

**Constructive Criticism** for Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Comments for the Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

UNM – VC 2016 Monday/Wednesday  
Syllabus **Target** Dates for INTRO to SIGN 201

- Wk 1 Introduction to Text, Manual Alphabet, ASL Lecture
- Wk 2 Ch 1 text, Manual Alphabet Activities, ASL Lecture, **Last Day to Change Sections**
- Wk 3 Ch1 activities, Manual Alphabet, ASL Lecture, Ch 2 **Last Day to Drop w/ \$Ref. w/o Grade**
- Wk 4 Manual Alphabet, ASL Lecture, Ch 1 /Ch 2 activities **Last Day Grade/Change Option**
- Wk 5 Ch 3 (adj), Manual Alphabet, ASL Lecture, CL: , Give Review H/O
- Wk 6 Review Sheet due, Ch 1, 2, 3 activities/ **EXAM # 1** Ch 4
- Wk 7 Ch 4 (negation), WH ? pg 97, Countries, Numbers, Dialogue
- Wk 8 Dialogue, Ch 4-5 Time markers, Cities, Time and Money
- \*\*\*\*\***Mid Semester** \*\*\*\*\***Spring Break**\*\*\*\*\*
- Wk 9 Numbers/Time/Money, Food H/O, Ch 1-5 activities, WH ?
- Wk 10 Foods/Animals/Cities, 1- 5 activities / “God Bless America”
- Wk 11 Music, Review / **EXAM # 2** Introduce CH 6
- Wk 12 Ch 6 activities and Foods H/O, WH ?, CL: **Last Day to W/D w/o Approval**
- Wk 13 🎵 “Who is a Signer...” Give H/O, Discuss H/O 1 - 6 activities
- Wk 14 Chapter Reviews / Give H/O Review for Final, Dialogue 2
- Wk 15 Activities Numbers / Money /Time, Review sheet H/O Due **W/D w/ Approval**
- Wk 16 \* **Multiple Choice / Receptive Finals during class Wednesday May 4\***
- \***Finals Week Expressive Final Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 PM May 11** \*