

INTRODUCTION TO SIGNED LANGUAGE...SPRING 2023

TUESDAY/THURSDAY 10:30-11:45 AM SIGN 2125-502 CRN 59162

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

Office Hours: T/TH 10:00am or 12:00 noon or by appointment

Phone: **\*Text Only\*** (505)480-0731, [bflett@unm.edu](mailto:bflett@unm.edu)

**Student Learning Objectives:** By the end of this 3 credit hour course

1. Students will effectively communicate-expressively and receptively- at a basic level with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals representing a cross-section of the Deaf community.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the basic education and access issues faced by the American Deaf community.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the differences between American Sign Language (ASL) and manually coded English sign systems.
4. Students will identify basic linguistic principles and describe the history of the recognition of American Sign Language.
5. Students will describe the cultural diversity and dynamics of the Deaf Community.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course provides an overview of signed languages, including American Sign Language (ASL), signed English as well as signing systems that are used by deaf people. Cross-linguistic and cross-cultural information is discussed with the primary focus on ASL, signed English and fingerspelling. This course exposes students to the most common manually coded signed systems and discusses their historical relevance in the education of deaf people. Historical figures and linguists are highlighted and recognized for the development and use of American Sign Language in the United States.

In addition to the acquisition of basic vocabulary and grammar, this course emphasizes knowledge of the characteristics and values of Deaf Culture. **This is an accelerated course that requires a great deal of discipline and practice both inside and outside of class time.** Class sessions are Face to Face during the scheduled time and day. Additionally, resources and assignments will be posted on CANVAS.

You are required to have at least one practice partner that you connect with outside for an hour per week to have conversations using your developing skills. Each week you will submit a report summarizing what you and your partner talked about and reflect on your personal growth. The reports will follow a provided template and will be submitted on CANVAS every Thursday before 11:59 PM.

## Textbooks

O'Rourke, Humphries, & Padden, A Basic Course in American Sign Language.

Wilcox & Wilcox, Learning to See: American Sign Language as a Second Language.

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

The best way to communicate with me is via email at [bflett@unm.edu](mailto:bflett@unm.edu). **However, assignments will not be accepted via email. All assignments will be turned in using the Learning Management System, Canvas, which you should check daily.**

\*Please maintain and check your UNM email daily! Notices, Handouts and reminders etc. will be posted as needed through UNM CANVAS. \*No Food or drinks in Classrooms/Valencia policy.

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.

Additional Activities and Topics of Discussion focus on the challenges facing families with deaf members. Discussion of singing/music in signed language. Number subsets in ASL Historical and linguistic background of ASL. Pioneers of ASL linguistic research.

Supplementary Readings: Available on CANVAS are Brief History of Signed Language, Signed Systems, Various appropriate articles on linguistics of ASL, linguistic research, Deaf Culture

Graded Activity                      **Target Dates 2022**                      Percentage Worth

**Exam # 1 (written/receptive).....THURSDAY.....MARCH 2.....10 & 15 %**

Exam # 2 (receptive).....THURSDAY. ....APRIL 6 .....15%

Partner Reports/Class Participation/Song/Dialogues/Homework .....5 %

Special assignments due at instructor's request.....10 %

**Partner Reports: due each THURSDAY in UNM CANVAS beginning on FEBRUARY 2**

**Final Exam (written/receptive)...THURSDAY.....MAY 4.....10% & 10%**

Final Exam (expressive).....TUESDAY .....MAY 9 .....25%

This is a three credit-hour course. Class meets for two 75-minute sessions of direct instruction for fifteen weeks during the SPRING 2023 semester. Please plan for a *minimum* of six hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

## 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. Any missed activities, quizzes, or tests cannot be made-up without a documented excuse. Students are responsible for getting missed information from another student and scheduling a time with instructor to make-up missed in-class activities, quizzes, or tests within one week. **Assignments will not be accepted late without a documented excuse.**

## CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation is essential in this class. The key advantage of class participation is that it encourages each student to be well-prepared and thus become an active, rather than a passive learner. Participation also provides you with the opportunity to gain from the experiences and talents of everyone in the class. Please feel free to ask questions, provide supportive comments, or challenge constructively what has been said. Those who participate regularly and well will benefit. If you are within one point of the next higher grade level, you 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+ (check grading chart below).

## 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.

## 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 hand in 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).

## EXAMS

Students are eligible to take a make-up exam [written only] if they (in UNM handbook) 1. Have a documented 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. If you miss an exam without the permission of the instructor a score of zero will be assigned. **Make-up exams are granted at the discretion of the instructor, only with prior arrangement, and must be completed prior to the next class meeting (unless circumstances involved make this clearly impractical).**

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students found cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero for the exam or assignment in question. UNM Plagiarism Policy <http://unm.edu/~unmvclib/handouts/somplagiarism.pdf>

\*\*Use of Electronic Devices (cell phones/recording audio & video) is not permitted in class. Cell phones are very disruptive to class. As a matter of courtesy, all audible signals of communication devices should be turned off or disabled during class. Individual discretion should be used in determining when exceptions should be made relative to emergency or personal situations.

## PARTNER REPORTS

Required outside classroom participation: selection of a partner from within the class. The pair should meet a **minimum of one hour** each week to practice signing without their voices. A Journal entry is expected from each partner specifying location of practice, time, a brief summary and both signatures. Reports are collected weekly on THURSDAYS throughout the semester before 11:59 PM. **Partner reports will NOT be accepted if late.**

Sign 2125-501 Partner Report Template Please Copy and Paste and make this your Journal entry WEEKLY before 11 PM. You will receive full credit if you do the following: \* Submit Document to Journal in CANVAS on time \* Complete the report with thought \* This is your report; make it unique to your ideas. \* Write the report using complete sentences and grammatically correct English \* Use the template below:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date You Met: \_\_\_\_\_

Start and End Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Where You Met? \_\_\_\_\_

Feedback to Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

PracticeSummary: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Answer/Reaction to the prompt:

Self-Analysis: (What you need to improve, your goal, and your plan to achieve that goal)

\_\_\_\_\_

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Connecting to Campus and Finding Support: UNM has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including [opportunities to get involved](#), [mental health resources](#), [academic support including tutoring](#), [resource centers](#) for people like you, free food at [Lobo Food Pantry](#), and [jobs on campus](#). Your advisor, staff at the [resource centers](#) and [Dean of Students](#), and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.

### **COVID-19 Requirements: COVID-19 Health and Awareness.**

UNM is a mask friendly, but not a mask required, community. To be registered or employed at UNM, Students, faculty, and staff must all meet UNM's Administrative Mandate on Required COVID-19 vaccination. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not come to class. If you have a positive COVID-19 test, please stay home for five days and isolate yourself from others, per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

If you do need to stay home, please communicate with me at [ TEXT 505 480 0731 or [bfolett@unm.edu](mailto:bfolett@unm.edu) ]; I can work with you to provide alternatives during these five days for course participation and completion. UNM faculty and staff know that these are challenging times. Please let us know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources and please be aware that UNM will publish information on websites and email about any changes to our public health status and community response.

Support: [valencia.unm.edu/](http://valencia.unm.edu/)

UNM COVID-19 requirements are subject to change relative to guidance from the New Mexico Department of Health. Thank you for keeping the Lobo community safe!

### **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.valencia.unm.edu/> Qualified students with disabilities should contact the Accessibility Resource Center. Reasonable accommodations will be given to any individual with a legitimate disability. Reasonable accommodations will be given to any individual with a legitimate disability. Please contact the instructor privately for arrangements. If you are a qualified person with disabilities who might need appropriate academic adjustments, please communicate with me as soon as possible so that we may make appropriate arrangements to meet your needs in a timely manner. Frequently, we will need to coordinate accommodating activities with other offices on campus. Course materials can be made available in alternative formats. In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as I am not legally permitted to

inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow. If you need an accommodation based on how course requirements interact with the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment, we can discuss the course format and requirements, anticipate the need for adjustments and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Disability Services Office for assistance in developing strategies and verifying accommodation needs. If you have not previously contacted them, I encourage you to do so.

### **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Students must submit written requests for accommodation to course instructor. The student should submit the request by the end of the second week of the semester. The request should include the date, times, and specific event for which accommodation is being requested.

**Title IX:** Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus. Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and GAs are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>. Support: LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center and the support services listed on its website, the Women's Resource Center and the LGBTQ Resource Center all offer confidential services and reporting.

**Citizenship and/or Immigration Status:** All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose not to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are normally excused with reasonable notice to the professor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: <http://undocumented.unm.edu/>.

**Land Acknowledgement:** Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Signed Language Interpreting Program

Department of Linguistics  
MSC03 2130  
The University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

V/TTY: (505) 277-0928  
Email: [sign@unm.edu](mailto:sign@unm.edu)  
Mon – Fri, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

UNM – Valencia Syllabus Target Dates INTRO to SIGN 2125 – 502

Wk 1 Introduction to CANVAS and Text, Manual Alphabet, ASL Lecture/  
Deaf Community, Continuum, Name Signs, Overview, Numbers 1-10

Wk 2 Ch 1 text, Manual Alphabet Activities, ASL Lecture/Sign Systems,  
Language Use in Deaf Community, Y/N Questions

Wk 3 Ch1 activities, Manual ABC's, CH 2, ASL Lecture/History of Deaf  
Education Timeline, Numbers 11-20, WH-words

Wk 4 Manual Alphabet, ASL Lecture, Ch 1 /Ch 2 activities, ASL  
Lecture/Continuum Review, Fused Construction, Foods

Wk 5 Ch 3 (adj), Manual Alphabet, ASL Lecture/ Important People,  
Classifiers, Review numbers 1 -20, WH review, Give Review Sheet for  
TEST H/O

Wk 6 Review Sheet due, Ch

1, 2, 3 activities/ Dialogue, Ch 4

Wk 7 or Wk 8 EXAM # 1, Ch 4, WH? pg 97, Countries, Numbers,

Wk 8 Dialogue, Ch 4-5 ASL Lecture/Time markers, Cities, Time and  
Money PPT, YES/NO Questions. Assign Classifier Story. SPRING BREAK

Wk 9 CH 4 DIALOGUE assign, Numbers, Time, Money, Cities H/O, Ch 1-5

activities, WH ?

Wk 10 Foods/Animals/Cities/States Review, 1- 5 activities

Wk 11 or Wk 12 Review / EXAM # 2 Introduce CH 6 , Assign “Will You Please Sign” Refection paper

Wk 12 Ch 6 activities and Review Food EXAM # 2

Wk 13 ♪ “Who is a Signer...Activity” Give H/O, Discuss H/O 1 - 6

activities NMM, WH?, States,

Numbers, Wk 14 Chapter

Reviews / Give H/O Review for Final, Dialogue 2 “God Bless America”

Review sheet

Wk 15 Activities Numbers / Money /Time, FINAL Multiple

Choice/Receptive Finals during class

Wk 16 Finals Week Expressive Final 10:30-12 noon \*TUESDAY MAY 9

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