

## Introduction to Sign Language Spring 2024

Monday/Wednesday 3:00 – 4:15 SIGN 2125-501 CRN 50889

Instructor: Margie J Zamora

BS Sign Language Interpreting; Education, MA/Multicultural SpEd; Licensed Educational Diagnostician

Office Hours: M/W 2:45–3:00 / 4:15-4:40 by appointment

Phone: \***Text Only**\* (505)385-1129, mvillell@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. (CCIE 7.1, 5.2, 5.)
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the basic education and access issues faced by the American Deaf community. (CCIE 6.3, 6.4)
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the differences between American Sign Language (ASL) and manually coded English sign systems. (CCIE 7.4)
4. Students will identify basic linguistic principles and describe the history of the recognition of American Sign Language. (CCIE 7.1, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1)
5. Students will describe the cultural diversity and dynamics of the Deaf Community. (CCIE 5.5, 6.3)

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 Wednesday before 11 PM.

Additional Activities and Topics of Discussion focus on the challenges facing families with deaf members. Discussion of Deaf Culture, singing/music in signed language, number subsets, ASL History, sign systems and linguistic background of ASL, pioneers of ASL linguistic research.

**\*\*\*UNM Student Email\*\*\***

\*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.

### **Textbooks**

O'Rourke, Humphries, & Padden, *A Basic Course in American Sign Language*.  
Wilcox & Wilcox, *Learning to See: American Sign Language as a Second Language*.

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.

Graded Activity	Target Dates.	Percentage Worth
<b>Exam # 1 (written/receptive)</b> .....	<b>Wednesday... FEB 28</b> .....	10 & 15%
<b>Exam # 2 (receptive)</b> .....	<b>Wednesday....APR 3</b> .....	15%
<b>Partner Reports/Class Participation/Song/Dialogues/Homework</b> ....		5 %
<b>Assignments</b> (due at instructor's request).....		10 %
Learning to See Ch. 1-3 questions	(2.5%)	
Classifier Group Assignment	(2.5%)	
Who is a Signer?	(1%)	
Will You Please Sign?	(1%)	

Receptive activity 1	(1%)
Receptive activity 2	(1%)
Receptive activity 3	(1%)

**Partner Reports: due each Wednesday before 11PM in UNM CANVAS beginning January 31**

**Final Exam (written/receptive).....Wednesday MAY 1.....10% & 10%**

**Final Exam (expressive).....Monday.....MAY 6 .....25%**

**TOTAL .....100%**

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

This is an accelerated course that requires a great deal of discipline and practice both inside and out of class. Please come to class prepared to communicate and participate in group activities using the signs you are learning. Class sessions are Face to Face during the scheduled time and day. Additionally, resources and assignments are posted on CANVAS. <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/support/index.html>

You are required to have at least one practice partner that you connect with outside for one (1) hour per week to have conversations using your developing skills. This is critical in developing your expressive and receptive 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 Wednesday before 11 PM. Template is included in this syllabus.

### **Attendance**

In person attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken daily, and you are expected to attend all class sessions. Additionally, you are expected to arrive to class on time and stay for the whole class. Three late arrivals or leaving early will reflect on your grade as one absence. (If there are extenuating circumstance, please talk with me.)

Students who miss **4 consecutive classes** may be dropped from the course as per UNM Pathfinder. However, students should not assume that nonattendance will result in being dropped from class. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate drops or complete withdrawals within published deadlines utilizing the appropriate process.

Any missed activities, quizzes/tests, or assignments cannot be made up without a documented excuse. **All make-up exams must be scheduled within two days of the original date, taken within a week of the exam date and may be subject to 10-point deduction from final score. Again, documentation must be provided to schedule a make-up exam.**

### **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.

<https://handbook.unm.edu/d75/>

### **Grading Chart/Class Participation**

Grades are determined from the total test scores accumulated, signing skills, class participation, completed assignments and weekly partner reports.

Grading system may be subject to modification. Final grades are NOT rounded up. Additionally, the use of Artificial Intelligence, AI, including ChatGPT will result in zero credit for any assignment where it is detected. I am interested in your personal growth and journey, not that of a bot. The use of AI is prohibited on all assignments.

Class participation is essential in 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 the student 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).

Grading Scale

100-97 – A+	87-89 – B+	77-79 – C+	67-69 – D+
93-96 – A	83-86 – B	73-76 – C	63-66 – D
90-92 – A –	80-82 – B –	70-72 – C –	60-62 – 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).

### 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>

<https://pathfinder.unm.edu/code-of-conduct.html>

Use of Electronic Devices (cell phones/recording audio & video, Google glasses etc...) 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.

Respectful and Responsible Learning: We all have shared responsibility for ensuring that learning occurs safely, honestly, and equitably. Submitting material as your own work that has been generated on a website, in a publication, by an artificial intelligence algorithm, by another person, or by breaking the rules of an assignment constitutes academic dishonesty. It is a student code of conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. *Please ask me for help in finding the resources you need to be successful in this course. I can help you use study resources responsibly and effectively.* Off-campus paper writing services, problem-checkers and services, websites, and AIs can be incorrect or misleading. Learning the course material depends on completing and submitting your own work. UNM preserves and protects the integrity of the academic community through multiple policies including policies on student grievances (Faculty Handbook D175 and D176), academic dishonesty (FH D100), and respectful campus (FH CO9). These are in the *Student Pathfinder* (<https://pathfinder.unm.edu>) and the *Faculty Handbook* (<https://handbook.unm.edu>).

### 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 the names of the signers, location of practice, time, and a brief summary. Reports are collected weekly on Wednesdays throughout the semester before 11 PM. Partner reports will not be accepted if late.

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(s) You Met: \_\_\_\_\_

Start and End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Where You Met? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Practice Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### **Intro to Sign Language UNM-Valencia Target Dates**

Wk 1 Introduction to ABC book pg. iii-13, Manual Alphabet (fingerspelling), Syllabus, LTS chapter 1, Lesson 1 ABC

Wk 2 Lesson 2 ABC, LTS Chapter 2, fingerspelling practice, Numbers 1-10, Language Continuum, Homonyms

Wk 3 Lesson 2 activities, Manual ABC's, Lesson 3, Fused Construction vs Agent, history Numbers 11-20, WH-words, ASL-PSE-SE, Sign Systems

Wk 4 Manual Alphabet, ASL Lecture, Lesson 3 activities, continue history if needed, Important People

Wk 5 Lesson 3 (adj), Manual Alphabet, Signers Perspective, CL:

Wk 6 Review Sheet due, CL: activities, numbers and subsets, dates and holidays

Wk 7 EXAMS # 1, Ch 4 Review

Wk 8 Review time, money, dates, discuss negation, CL: assignment due, Lesson 4  
BREAK

Wk 10 Lesson 4 activities, dialogue, BINGO  
Wk 11 Lesson 5, review for receptive exam #2, Lesson 5 activities  
Wk 12 Exam # 2, Introduce Lesson 6, food/country/animal/body parts and vocab in class, Lesson 6 activities, directional verbs, OSV, Topic/Comment  
Wk 13 ♪ God Bless America vocab/music, Deaf Culture  
Wk 14 “Who is a Signer...Activity” Give H/O, Discuss H/O 1 - 6 activities  
NMM  
Wk 15 Chapter Reviews / Give H/O Review for Final, Dialogue 2  
Wk 16 Finals- Multiple Choice/Receptive Finals during class May 1  
Wk 16 Finals Week Expressive Final Monday May 6 3 PM \*

### **SUPPORT:**

Advisor <https://valencia.unm.edu/students/advisement/index.html>

TRIO : <http://valencia.unm.edu/students/sss-trio/index.html>

**PASOS Resource Center** (505) 925-8546, : <http://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/pasos/pasos-resource-center/resource-guide.html>

The Resource Center is an on-campus center that serves as a “one-stop” for all non-academic needs of UNM-Valencia students.

### **Accommodations**

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at [arcsrvs@unm.edu](mailto:arcsrvs@unm.edu) or by phone at 505-277-3506. The [UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services](#) (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at [sjclawson@unm.edu](mailto:sjclawson@unm.edu).

Support: Contact me at [mvillell@unm.edu](mailto:mvillell@unm.edu) or text me at 505-385-1129 or in office/check-in hours and contact. The [UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services](#) (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at [sjclawson@unm.edu](mailto:sjclawson@unm.edu)., Or [Accessibility Resource Center \(https://arc.unm.edu/\)](https://arc.unm.edu/) at <mailto:arcsrvs@unm.edu> (505) 277-3506.

<http://valencia.unm.edu/students/advisement/equal-access-faqs.html>

Support:

**JOBS:** <https://valencia.unm.edu/students/financial-aid/student-employment.html>

FOOD: <http://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/pasos/pasos-resource-center/campus-food-pantry.html>

Resources to support study skill and time management are available through **UNM-Valencia Learning Commons (Tutoring)** <http://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/learning-commons/index.html>

Tutoring is available to you in math, science, writing, and other subjects through the Learning Commons: Learning and STEM Centers and Writing Center. In person tutoring is in these centers in the LRC (the building that also has the library). Tutoring in Zoom and, for writing, through email, is also available. [tutor@unm.edu](mailto:tutor@unm.edu)

Get Involved : <https://valencia.unm.edu/students/index.html>

### **Wellness and Health and Awareness**

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 505-385-1129 or email [mvillell@unm.edu](mailto:mvillell@unm.edu) ; I can work with you to provide alternatives 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!

### **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.

### **Campus Policy Regarding Sexual Misconduct**

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.

<http://lgbtqrc.unm.edu/>

<https://women.unm.edu/>

### **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/>.