

Introduction to Sign Language Spring 2023

Monday/Wednesday 3:00 – 4:15 SIGN 2125-501 CRN 50899

Instructor: Margie J Zamora

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

Office Hours: M/W 2:45–3:00 / 4:15-4:45 or 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.
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 Wednesday before 11 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\*\*\*\*\*

\*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. In ZOOM etiquette, this also holds true. 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 2023	Percentage Worth
Exam # 1 (written/receptive).....	Wednesday.....March 2	....10 & 15 %
Exam # 2 (receptive).....	Wednesday .....April 6.....	.....15%
Partner Reports/Class Participation/Song/Dialogues/Homework .....		.....5 %
Special assignments due at instructor's request.....		.....10 %
Partner Reports: due each Wednesday in UNM CANVAS	beginning on February 1	
Final Exam (written/receptive)...	Wednesday .....May 3.....	.....10% & 10%
Final Exam (expressive).....	Wednesday .....May 10.....	.....25%

Federal Credit Hour Definition Federal Credit Hour Definition: A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than: (1) one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or (2) at least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other activities as established by an institution, including laboratory work, internships, practicum, studio work, and other academic work leading toward to the award of credit hours. 34CFR 600.2 (11/1/2010) <https://www.hlcommission.org/Policies/assignment-of-credits.html> This is a three credit-hour course. Class meets for two 75-minute sessions of direct instruction for fifteen weeks during the semester. Students are expected to complete a minimum of four 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.

#### 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 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. 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

You are required to complete the following on a weekly basis:

1. Set-up a 1 hour-long meeting with your partner(s) once-a-week to practice the ASL vocabulary you have learned in class
  - It is required that you meet in person as first choice. Remote meeting is allowed if schedules do not match for in person with your partner(s)
  - It is required that you practice for a minimum of 1 hour a week (this can include the time we have during class allotted to partner time (this will depend each week))
  - It is required that you practice "voice-off" as much as possible

Each student will complete their **own** Partner Report and turn it in by **11:59 PM on Wednesday** each week by submitting it to CANVAS as Partner Report in ASSIGNMENTS.  
No Late reports will be accepted.

You will receive full points if you do the following:

- Submit to CANVAS on time
- Complete the Partner Report with meticulous effort
- Submit a report that is unique to you and completed by you
- Write the report using complete sentences and grammatically correct English
- Utilize the template provided in ASSIGNMENTS

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 [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 me, an advisor, or another UNM staff member know that you need support so that we can

connect you to the right resources. Please be aware that UNM will publish information on websites and email about any changes to our public health status and community response.

Support:

Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) at (505) 277-3136. If you are having active respiratory symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, etc.) AND need testing for COVID-19; OR If you recently tested positive and may need oral treatment, call SHAC.

LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (505) 277-2911 can offer help with contacting faculty and managing challenges that impact your UNM experience.

### 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.

### 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.

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/>.

UNM – Valencia Monday/Wednesday Syllabus Target Dates

INTRO to SIGN 2125 – 501

Wk 1 Introduction to Text, Manual Alphabet, ASL Lecture/Deaf Community Continuum, Name Signs, Overview, Numbers 0-10

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

Wk 3 Ch1 activities, Manual ABC's, ASL Lecture, CH 2, 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, Classifiers CL:, Review numbers 1-20, WH review, Give Review 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 Time markers, Cities, Time and Money PPT, YES/NO Questions, Assign Classifier Story

Spring Break

Wk 9 Numbers/Time/Money, Food, Cities H/O, Ch 1-5 activities, WH ?

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

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

Wk 12 Ch 6 activities and Foods

Wk 13 🎵 “Who is a Signer...” 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 \* Wednesday \*May 10 \* Finals Week Expressive Final 3:00 – 5:00 PM