Course Description:
This course is an introduction to the basic skills in production and comprehension of American Sign Language (ASL). It includes the manual alphabet and numbers, vocabulary, grammar, sentence structures, conversational strategies, and cultural/language notes. This course will assist the student in developing conversational ability; culturally appropriate behaviors and exposes students to ASL grammar. Prerequisites: None.

Prerequisites
This is an entry level course. There are no pre-requisites.

Required/Optional Texts and/or Course Materials:


2) **A Sign of Respect: Strategies for Effective Deaf/Hearing Interactions.** Thomas K. Holcomb and Anna Mindess, Redesigned Student Workbook and DVD, 2008

3) Flashdrive/Jumpdrive

Course Outcomes

**Learning Outcomes:**

A) Vocabulary Development
   1. The student will be exposed to vocabulary items in Units 1-5 of *Signing Naturally*.
   2. Given a set of targeted vocabulary items drawn from class items and videos, the student will demonstrate comprehensive mastery of vocabulary items.
B) Grammatical Features
   1. The student will demonstrate comprehensive mastery of target, content-specific commands,
      questions, and statements in ASL.
   2. The student will be exposed to and produce short dialogues in ASL as directed by the instructor.

C) Conversational Skills
   1. The student will demonstrate comprehension and conversation facilitating behaviors.
   2. The student will demonstrate comprehension and production of regulating behaviors (i.e. attention
      getting techniques, turn taking signals, and others)
   3. After being exposed to short narratives and stories in ASL told by the instructor, Deaf users of ASL
      or ASL DVD, the student will be produce two narratives.
   4. The student will demonstrate the ability to initiate, conduct and terminate a short content-specific
      conversation.

D) Cultural Awareness
   1. The student will analyze and discuss information on Deaf Americans, ASL, and its history. The
      student is responsible for reading the text, A Sign of Respect. Text cultural information will be
      discussed during class.
   2. The student will attend social functions/events at which members of the Deaf community are
      present in an effort to practice cultural mediation.

Core Curriculum Objectives:

Communication (critical thinking, communication, teamwork, personal responsibility)

- The students will utilize critical thinking in their production of expressive assignments.
- The students will practice effective expressive visual communication during peer activities.
- The students will compare differences and similarities between deaf and hearing communities and
  determine how point of view alters perception.
- The students will employ ethical responsible practices when mediating between deaf and hearing cultures.

Classroom Management Policies

You are responsible for knowing the policies and procedures below. You can pick up a copy of the Student
Handbook at a student center or access it online from our web page http://lamar.edu. Please take special note of
the following: Policies on Academic Dishonesty, Prohibited Acts, Unattended Children, Children in the Classroom,
and Student Discipline Policy.

Disability accommodation: It is the policy of Lamar University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant
to federal and state law, and the University’s commitment to equal educational opportunities. Any student with a
disability who needs accommodation, (e.g. seating placements or arrangement for examinations, notes, etc.) should
inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. The instructor is also available to assist with accommodation.
Students are also encouraged to contact the office of Disability Support Services, which is located in the Wimberley
Student Services Building, Room 101A or by telephone at 880-8062.

Academic Honesty: Teacher education students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner both
in classes and in field placements. Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated on tests or out-of-class
assignments. You are expected to do your own work. Paraphrasing the West Point Honor Code … a Lamar
University student will not lie, cheat, or tolerate those who do. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated on tests or
any out-of-class assignments. Should you be found responsible for a dishonest incident, you WILL receive a
grade of “F” on the assignment and/or a reduction of the grade for the course. If you do not consent to the
findings and/or the penalty, you must file an appeal with the department chairperson within five days. Please check
the Lamar University Handbook and Undergrad Catalog for policies on academic dishonesty.
**Drop:** It is the student’s responsibility to make sure he/she is officially enrolled in this course. If, at any point, you decide to drop this class, it is your responsibility to officially drop. Any student who stops attending class and does not officially drop the course will earn an “F” as the semester grade.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to arrive and be ready to begin class on time. Attendance is required for face-to-face discussions. Your attendance and participation will be taken into consideration when determining the final grade. Each ASL class has a sign-in sheet. It is the student’s responsibility to sign in at the beginning of each class period. If you do not sign in, you will be considered absent. No make-up tests or assignments will be given without doctor’s excuse. Late assignments are generally not accepted. Students should discuss specific issues with the instructor. All due dates for assignments can be found on Blackboard or outlined by the Instructor. Late assignments are subject to a drop in letter grade for that assignment. No late assignment will be accepted after the second class following the absence. Repeatedly turning in late assignments is viewed as lack of professionalism and may influence annual evaluations and reviews by faculty.

Consistent attendance is crucial. American Sign Language is a visual language and cannot be effectively learned without instruction and interaction in the target language. Students cannot expect to pass this course if they do not attend class consistently.

- You may have two non-consecutive absences– any absences beyond two will result in points being deducted from your attendance/participation grade per class missed.
- Please inform the instructor if you have an exceptional circumstance that causes you to miss class. If it is a medical situation, you must have a note from the doctor.

All students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and activities on a regular basis. “Participation” does not mean giving “right” answers. It means thinking about the material, sharing your thoughts, paying attention, and giving your best effort.

It is necessary for your visual language development to maintain a signing environment. The skills to be developed in the class depend on visual perception and memory. **The use of voice or the mouthing of English words in the classroom is to be restricted as much as possible.** Write notes to each other if you must or SIGN!

**Due dates:** Assignments are due on the date designated. If special circumstances occur, any accepted late assignment should be submitted by the following class meeting and will be penalized one letter grade. The instructor reserves the right to decide which late assignment/s might be accepted.

**Class participation:** Presentations and activities will be a part of this course. You will be expected to participate and contribute in the work you do individually, with a partner, and/or to any group activities. Individual contributions to class discussion will also be expected and will result from your reading and class assignments. You will be expected to come to class prepared. Peer participation with activities demonstrated by classmates will be expected as a part of the course. **Participation in activities demonstrated will be expected as a part of the course and courtesy towards those presenting is required.**

**Cell phones and electronic devices:** All electronic devices, including cell phones, which produce noise or other distractions, are not to be operated during classes. **Please be courteous to others and your instructor by turning cell phones off or setting them on silent.** You should NOT leave class to respond to calls with the exception of a REAL emergency and you MAY NOT send text messages in class. **Laptop usage will not be tolerated.** Instructor will email and post the notes on the Blackboard.

**Syllabus Changes:** While every effort has been made to make this syllabus and schedule complete as possible, the instructors reserve the right to make changes in the assessments, assignments, due dates, content and test dates. If such changes are made, the students will be informed as soon as possible.

**Drop/Add/Withdraw:**
Last day to drop/withdraw without academic penalty – (as listed in the schedule)
Last day to drop/withdraw with academic penalty – (as listed in the schedule)

**Course Evaluation:** Instruction as well as student performance is subject to evaluation. Academic departments have policies and procedures that will be conducted at indicated by the Course Grading System.

**Sexual Harassment:** In accordance with administrative policy, sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the university. Behavior in this course must conform to the university policy.

**Blackboard:** Your Lamar email address in the blackboard will be the official method of electronic communication for this class. You should plan on utilizing the blackboard for class announcements and emails from the instructor.

**Professionalism:** Professionalism and collegiality are important factors in teaching. The Teacher Educational student will sign a Professionalism Agreement. Professional interaction and support to colleagues are important to teaching professionals.

**Weave Assessment Goals:**
Goal 1: Demonstrating Expressive ASL skills  
Goal 2: Negotiating a Signing Environment  
Goal 3: Demonstrating Role Shifting

**Assignments:**

**COURSE GRADING SYSTEM:**
You will be evaluated continually throughout the semester on your expressive and receptive skills. You will also be evaluated on your preparation for class activities and your assignments outside of the class.

1. ASL Events/ASL Lab  
2. ASL Lab  
3. Quizzes  
4. Midterm Exam  
5. Final Project – expressive  
6. Final Exam – receptive  
7. Video/Workbook  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ASL Events/ASL Lab</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. ASL Lab</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Final Project – expressive</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Final Exam – receptive</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Video/Workbook</td>
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TOTAL = 100%

1. **Deaf Events/ASL Lab:**

**Deaf Experience Events/Activities:** Students learning a foreign language need opportunities to interact with users of that language outside the classroom setting. The number of contact hours at Deaf Events, in addition to lab hours, is 10 hours for the semester. Events will be held at Lamar, as well as throughout the Golden Triangle. Events will be posted in the ASL Lab and in ASL classrooms. Students are to attend events (staying a minimum of 2 hours per event) and type a paragraph or two describing their experiences at these events.

2. **ASL Lab:**

ASL is a visual language and is impossible to learn if you sign only during the two-and-one-half hours per week that you attend class. In order to give you the best chance for success in learning ASL – attend lab and find opportunities to interact with persons who use sign. ASL students are required to attend 10 hours of lab per semester.

3. **Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be given intermittently throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor.
4. Midterm:
Midterm exam will be scheduled after the completion of Unit 2. The midterm will cover all material presented to that point of the class. It may include information from quizzes from Signing Naturally, and vocabulary. There will be no make-up of the midterm except under circumstances which the instructor deems to be extreme.

5. Final project (expressive):
Self-Video Assignments:
You will complete these projects during your own time. You will be given time to practice your signing skills before actually taping your work. Details will be discussed in class. Students will sign short stories. Stories should be recorded on video. Due dates will be announced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expressive Assignment #1 “Gum Story”</th>
<th>Assessment rubric located in text.</th>
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<tr>
<td>You will be evaluated on the following:</td>
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<td>Sign Clarity</td>
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<td>Fingerspelling Clarity</td>
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<td>Topic-Comment Structure</td>
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<td>Facial Expression</td>
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<td>Use of Sign Space</td>
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<td>Fluency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pronominalization/Pronoun Referents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensible descriptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-manual behavior</td>
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<tr>
<th>Expressive Assignment #2 “Timber”</th>
<th>Assessment rubric located in text.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time limit: 2:00 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>You will be evaluated on the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign Clarity</td>
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<td>Fingerspelling Clarity</td>
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<td>Use of Time/Number Concept Signs</td>
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<td>Use of Modals</td>
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<td>Use of Classifiers</td>
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6. Final (receptive):
There will be two parts, expressive and receptive. Cumulative in nature; it will include comprehension and production. Expressive will be your second video assignment. As you can see, a large part of your grade will depend on the final. There will be no make-up of the final. Final Exam will be given as specified in the semester schedule.

7. Videos:
Students will view videos, ASL models from various regions and on a variety of topics. These videos will be used to model signing techniques for expressive assignments. These strategies will be practiced during instruction time with instructor and peers. Videos and workbook pages from A Sign of Respect will be assigned by the instructor.
Grading scale:

A= 90-100%
B=80-89%
C=70-79%
D=60-69%
F=Less than 60%

Course Outline

Required and/or Recommended Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Getting to know you</td>
<td>Getting to know you, number: 1-15, fingerspelling, same or different, introducing self, wh-question: WHO, specifying where, giving commands: objects in classroom, following instructions, culture: getting attention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Exchanging Personal Information</td>
<td>Giving information about yourself, number: 16-29, identifying locations: tic-tac-toe, narrating experiences with languages, fingerspelling, talking about leisure activities, describing shapes, identifying people, fingerspelling double letters, negotiating a signing environment, wh-question: “what”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Discussing Living Situation</td>
<td>Telling where one lives, giving commands: locations, communicating with faces, fingerspelling: moving letter Z, discussing one’s residence, giving basic directions: around the classroom, following instructions, number: 30-66, talking about roommates and pets, express needs, fingerspelling: down letters P,Q,Y, telling how long, raveling to school or work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Talking about Family</td>
<td>Talking about immediate family, negation, rocking numbers 67-98, have, like, want and need, talking about siblings, fingerspelling: moving Letter J, telling how old, talking about extended family, review cardinal number 1-100, culture: maintaining a clear sightline.</td>
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Expressive Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Talking about Activities</td>
<td>Everyday activities, agreement verbs, fingerspelling: words with G and H Letters, talking about chores, asking if done, talking about errands, telling how often, talking about activities with others, talking about what one does for a living.</td>
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</tbody>
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December

Review
December

Final Exam (as scheduled)