

American Sign Language IV

SGNL 2050.001

Mo/Tu/We/Th 10:00AM - 11:50AM Lang 113

Instructor: Mrs. Erika Trammell-Conerly, M.S. (She/Her) **office:** LANG 403

Hours: By appointment: M, T, W 12:00pm – 1:15pm

E-Mail: Erika.Trammell-Conerly@unt.edu

*Connect with me through email or Canvas. During busy times, my inbox becomes full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within 2 business days, please send a follow up email.

Tutors: Jenna Jones: JennaJones@my.unt.edu

- Tutoring schedule: Tuesday/Thursday 1:30pm-2:30pm and Wednesdays 12:30pm-3:30pm

Text & Other Materials/Supplies:

1. Dawn Sign Press (Video Library Subscription) <https://www.dawnsign.com/subscribe/signing-naturally-7-12>
2. Canvas - To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System and a recording device for expressive assignments. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content.

Course Description: The Signing Naturally Units 7–12 and videos are designed to build upon skills you learned previously in Units 1–6 and Units 7 – 9. These materials, along with class instruction, give you opportunities to:

- expand vocabulary and range of topics
- increase narrative and conversational fluency
- compare aspects of ASL and English through translation exercises
- compare aspects of the Deaf culture, American culture, and your own culture
- understand your role as an ASL student in the Deaf community.

Upon completion of **Unit 10**, the student will effectively use ASL receptively and expressively in the following domains:

- Giving opinions about tendencies
- Giving opinions about personal qualities
- Comparing personal qualities
- Culture: Interrupting others

Upon completion of **Unit 11**, the student will effectively use ASL receptively and expressively in the following domains:

- Discussing one's knowledge and abilities
- Asking for opinion about someone
- Making and cancelling plans

- Discussing personal goal
- Culture: ASL student in the community

Upon completion of **Unit 12**, the student will effectively use ASL receptively and expressively in the following domains:

- Storytelling

Helpful web resources: <https://gcdasl.com/a/>, www.lifeprint.com, [ASL Grammar: The Workbook](#)

How to Succeed in this Course

No Talking Policy: We insist on maintaining a signing environment in the classroom for two reasons:

- 1) It is imperative you develop the habit of signing when Deaf people are present because it is considered rude and insulting to talk in front of a Deaf person. Information should be accessible for everyone present.
- 2) This is an immersion class; only the target language is used. Using ASL will help develop both comprehension and expressive skills quickly and effectively. Talking disrupts this process and delays language development. If a peer asks for help, use signs you have learned, gesture or by writing back and forth.

ADA accommodation statement: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to hold a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](#). You may also contact ODA at (940) 565-4323.

Participation: Students are expected to attend ALL class meetings and participate during class. It is important to communicate with the professor PRIOR to being absent, so you and the professor, can discuss the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Because participation happens in the classroom with the instructor and peers, points cannot be made up. Calculation of participation is based on the number of activities counted by instructor, then divided by the number of participated events students participated in (to give an average).

Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. Being punctual indicates our respect for others. Please arrive before class begins to find a seat and connect with your peers. The beginning of class is especially critical however, being late to class is sometimes inevitable. If you are late, know you are welcome to join, but please do so without distracting others. Should you arrive more than 15 minutes after the start of class, you will be marked as tardy. Similarly, students who leave class early will also be marked as tardy.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I value the perspectives students bring to our campus. Work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. I want to ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel this is not the case, let me know. We are all learning together.

Every student has the right to learn and engage within an environment of respect and courtesy from others. We will discuss our classroom's habits of engagement and I encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding: [Code of Student Conduct](#)

Assessing Your Work: Grades are based on mastery of the content. As a rule, I do not grade on a "curve" because that is a comparison of your outcomes to others. I encourage you to find opportunities to learn with and through others. Explore [Navigate's Study Buddy](#) tool to join study groups. Maximize your learning with our student tutors. Focus on areas you are struggling with by attending scheduled study group sessions or with the tutor before each exam.

Course Evaluation

Receptive Exams	30%
Expressive Exams	30%
Participation	15%
Signing Naturally Homework	15%
Deaf Culture/Deaf/ASL Events	10%

A = 90-100% B = 80-89.99% C = 70-79.99% D = 60-69.99% F = 59.99% or less

Course Policies

Classroom: Appropriate behavior is expected of all students taking this course. Turn off all electronic devices.

The average college student is expected to spend three (3) hours per week for each one (1) hour of class working on the course to learn the content. If you are an "average" college-level learner, you should spend about nine (9) hours per week to studying for this course. Adjust hours to accommodate your learning level.

Help maintain a positive learning environment by arriving on time, turning off phones before arriving to class, and avoiding distracting behaviors. Any student whose behavior disturbs our learning environment may be asked to leave, and participation points will not be awarded for the day.

Exams: There will be four receptive and four expressive exams this semester. The instructor has a policy of **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** unless there is an extreme emergency, and SUBSTANTIAL documentation provided the following class attended. No late documentation will be accepted. Documentation must be provided by a qualified practitioner and will be verified. Students must abide by the UNT Academic Integrity Policy. Students committing academic dishonesty will receive a grade of Zero (0) and will be referred to the Dean of Students office (see Student Code of Conduct).

Assignments: Forty percent of your grade will be calculated using your participation, homework assignments and Deaf Culture Events/Assignments. Students will receive regular feedback on their performance from the instructor. This is a college course: **NO EXTRA CREDIT** opportunities will be available.

Late Work: A grade of zero (0) will be assigned to any homework assignment that is not completed and turned in on the date and time it is due. NO EXCEPTIONS. Do not send homework to the instructor via email.

Academic Honesty: Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one's own work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement. It is the aim of the faculty the University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students presenting any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious

consequences, possibly suspension. “Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act. Students who plagiarize will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and the case will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct.

Course Policies

Classroom: Appropriate behavior is expected of all students taking this course. Turn off all electronic devices such as cell phones and laptops.

Generally, average college students are expected to spend three (3) hours per week for each one (1) hour of class time working on the course to be able to successfully learn the content. If you are an “average” college-level learner, you should spend about nine (9) hours per week if you expect to successfully complete this course. Adjust hours to accommodate your learning level.

Help maintain a positive learning environment by arriving on time, turning off phones before arriving to class, and avoiding distracting behaviors. Any student whose behavior disturbs our learning environment may be asked to leave and participation points will not be earned for the day.

Exams: Throughout the semester, there will be 2 receptive, 2 expressive exams and a final exam. The instructor strictly adheres to a NO MAKE-UP EXAMS policy, except in cases of extreme emergencies, where SUBSTANTIAL documentation must be presented at the subsequent class session. Late documentation will not be considered, and it must be provided by a qualified practitioner, subject to verification. Students must plan to make-up the missed exam within one week.

Assignments: Thirty percent of your overall grade will be determined by participation and homework assignments. Regular feedback on performance will be provided by the instructor and the instructional team. As this is a college-level course, there will be no opportunities for EXTRA CREDIT.

Late Work: All Signing Naturally homework is expected to be completed through Canvas. Assignments with specified due dates can be submitted late, incurring a daily deduction of 10%. After one week, the maximum points that can be earned will be fifty.

Academic Honesty: Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one’s own work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement. It is the aim of the faculty the University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students presenting any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. “Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act. Students who plagiarize will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and the case will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct.

Deaf Culture Events: Students are required to attend or complete two (2) Deaf Culture Events during the semester. Pick any 2 from the following:



Welcome to
**National Deaf Center
Online Learning**

Introduction to Interpreting Services **AND** Building Relationships with Deaf Communities

SELF-PACED BOOK STUDIES ***If you choose the book study, no additional Deaf events are required. You must read a different book if you completed this last semester. **Certificate of completion must be submitted by due date.**

Book Study:
Deaf Eyes on Interpreting

Self Paced
2.0 PPO CEUs
\$125

Delve into *Deaf Eyes on Interpreting* at your own pace with the guidance of topics provided to engage your reading. Examine the importance of cultural competency for interpreters, the impact of communication dynamics on interpreting, and the significance of collaborative interpreting approaches. You will also explore the ethical considerations and decision-making processes that interpreters encounter in the profession. Once completed you will have the opportunity to take a quiz and reflect on your reading with short response questions.

Book Study:
I'LL SCREAM LATER

Self Paced
1.0 PPO CEU
\$75

Join our self-paced book study and delve into *I'll Scream Later* by Marlee Matlin, an inspiring memoir that takes you on a journey through resilience, self-discovery, and the triumph of the human spirit. Marlee Matlin's challenges and triumphs, reflecting on themes of identity, advocacy, and personal growth. *"Book not included"* Follow along with Guided Topics to engage yourself and get the most out of your read! Once completed you will have the opportunity to take a quiz and reflect on your reading with short response questions.

Book Study:
Deaf Utopia
By: Nyle DiMarco

Self Paced
1.0 PPO CEU
\$75

Enjoy this memoir & "love letter to the way of life" at your own pace. Follow along with some guided topics to consider. Once you have completed reading you will take a quiz revolving around the topics provided.

Book Study:
TRAIN GO SORRY

Self Paced
1.0 PPO CEU
\$75

Join our Independent Book Study on *Train Go Sorry* by Leah Hager Cohen! Dive into the captivating world of Deaf culture, ASL, interpretation, and the power of communication. Explore complex themes of identity, privilege, and ethical considerations, all while gaining a deeper understanding of the Deaf community. Embark on this thought-provoking journey at your own pace, fostering empathy and personal growth. Sign up now to embark on a transformative literary adventure! Once completed you will have the opportunity to take a quiz and reflect on your reading with short response questions. *"Book not included"*

Book Study:
Seeing Voices
By: Oliver Sacks

Self Paced
1.0 PPO CEU
\$75

Read and explore *Seeing Voices* by Oliver Sacks at your own pace. This book delves into the fascinating world of deafness, sign language, and the unique experiences of the deaf community. Through Oliver Sacks' insightful explorations, you will gain a deeper understanding of the experiences and perspectives of deaf individuals. Follow along with guided topics to keep you on track. Once completed you will have the opportunity to take a quiz and reflect on your reading with short response questions.