

**ASL 1110-11670 American Sign Language 1**

Fall 2022  
Section 1799

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Contact Information

**Instructor:** Ralena McDevitt

**Office:** HPNP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 2126

**Email Contact:** ralenamcdevitt@ufl.edu (preferred)

**Phone Contact:** 352-505-7471 VP relay

**Office Hours:** By appointment only (for in person or Zoom)

Basic Course Information

Section 1799: M, T, W, R | Period 2 (8:30AM-9:20AM) Com-024

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to the basic skills in developing production and comprehension skills in American Sign Language (ASL). Students will learn ASL vocabulary, structure, and grammar. Course content also includes the manual alphabet and numbers. Students will develop basic conversational abilities, culturally appropriate behaviors, and learn about the culture and history of Deaf communities.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

Unit 1: Welcome to the Deaf World

Unit 2: Academics

Unit 3: Family and Relationships

Unit 4: Residences and Communities

**REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS:**

Purple Moontower. (2021). *TRUE+WAY ASL Student eWorkbook Units 1-4* (3rd ed.).

**COURSE RATIONALE/OBJECTIVES:**

The purpose of this course is to help you develop the study skills you need to learn a language and to review and practice what you are learning in your language class. This may

include lectures, small group activities, use of electronic media, going to ASL Lab, and Deaf events. You will be encouraged to practice your receptive and expressive skills so that you can have a positive experience with your language course. Students are expected to come to class well prepared to participate in daily discussions. The grammatical explanations will be kept to a minimum and students will be required to work in pairs and small groups. Active participation in group work is required for the success of the class.

## **ASL 1: STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **Course Level Outcomes:**

*At the end of this course the students should be able to do the following:*

#### **1. Vocabulary Development**

- a. Recognize and produce vocabulary items in each unit.
- b. Demonstrate comprehensive proficiency in targeted vocabulary words drawn from class items, lectures, and videos.

#### **2. Grammatical Features**

- a. Demonstrate comprehensive proficiency in target, content-specific commands, questions, and statements in ASL.
- b. Identify grammatical features within short dialogues in ASL directed by the professor.

#### **3. Conversational and Communication Skills**

- a. Demonstrate comprehension and conversation facilitating behaviors.
- b. Demonstrate comprehension and production of regulating behaviors (i.e., attention-getting techniques, turn-taking signals, and others)
- c. Comprehend short narratives and stories in ASL signed by the professor, Deaf ASL speakers, or ASL videos added by the professor.
- d. Demonstrate the ability to create, conduct and terminate a short content-specific conversation.

#### **4. Cultural Awareness**

- a. Analyze and critique competing perspectives of diverse Deaf Communities in the United States and Canada, ideas, aesthetic traditions, and cultural practices, and its history.
- b. Compare, contrast, and interpret differences and commonalities among Deaf and hearing cultures.

## **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE GRADING SYSTEM:**

*Your comprehension and production skills will be evaluated regularly throughout the course in separate ways as listed below:*

### **Conversation Starter Discussions 5%**

Watch the conversation starters. Pick a question to answer and type your response in the discussion board by the due date. Once you type your response in **sentences**, you will be able to see your classmates' responses. Feel free to post additional questions and comments to better understand the conversation starters. Points will be deducted for late assignments.

### **Peer Observation Assignment (POA) 5%**

At the end of each unit, you will be watching videos of proficient Deaf ASL signers signing something incorrectly. Try to identify the error by answering the questions by the due date.

### **Self-Observation Assessment Review (SOAR) 5%**

At the end of each unit, you are to sign sentences in ASL. You are to record your work and submit your video by the due date. Complete the rubric by comparing your video with the proficient Deaf ASL signer, identifying areas you can improve and areas that you are doing well. **You will use FlipGrid for this assignment.**

### **Reflection Summary Video Assignments 10%**

You are to write 250 words on your work via Canvas and submit your assignments by the due date. Points will be deducted for late assignments.

### **Story Comprehension 10%**

At the end of each unit, you will watch a story and answer questions about the story by the due date. There will be no **make-up** of the quiz except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique.

### **Worksheets 15%**

Worksheets are designed to retain and reinforce what is learned in the classroom. Complete the assigned workbook assignments by assigned due dates. Points will be deducted for late assignments. **You will be given 2 attempts to complete this assignment, the highest point will be graded.**

### **Quizzes 15%**

Quizzes are designed to cover content previously learned to ensure you are at the right pace in learning the material. Complete the assigned quizzes by the due dates. There will be no **make-up** of the quiz except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique. **You are allowed only one attempt.**

### **Unit Production Test 15%**

The test will cover material presented up to this point in the course. They will include information from the lectures, vocabulary, conversation starter discussions, worksheets, and quizzes. There will be no **make-up** of the quiz except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique. **You will complete this test at home using FlipGrid.**

### Unit Comprehension Test 20%

The test will cover material presented up to this point in the course. They will include information from the lectures, vocabulary, conversation starter discussions, worksheets, and quizzes. There will be no **make-up** of the quiz except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique. **You will complete this test in class and be sure to bring your tablet/laptop.**

\*One point will be deducted for any late submissions.

\*\*Two points will be deducted for any late submissions after a week from the due date.

\*\*\*Any late submissions will not be accepted after **Friday, November 18, 2022.**

## Course Grading System

ASSIGNMENT	POSSIBLE PERCENT
Conversation Starter Discussions	5%
Peer Observation Assignment (POA)	5%
Self-Observation Assessment Review (SOAR) video assignments	5%
Reflection Summary Video (3) Deaf Community Presentation (1)	10%
Story Comprehension	10%
Worksheet assignments	15%
Quizzes	15%
Unit Production Test	15%
Unit Comprehension Test	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**ASL Zone:** This classroom is ASL Zone, avoid voicing or English mouthing during class time. Once the professor enters the classroom, please silence yourself and sign with your class peers. Talking without signing in the presence of a Deaf professor or any Deaf person is considered rude in the Deaf culture. Write notes to each other if you must or SIGN! The **NO VOICE** rule will be enforced from the beginning until the end of the class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave the class.

## GRADING SCALE:

% of pts	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	70-76	67-69	63-66	60-62	Below 60
# of pts	558-600	540-557	522-539	498-521	480-497	462-479	402-461	378-401	360-377	300-314	Below 360
Letter grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D+	D	D-	E

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. The GPA for graduate students must be 3.0 based on 5000 level courses and above to graduate. A grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if based on credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher that have been earned with a B+ or higher. In addition, the Bachelor of Health Science and Bachelor of Public Health Programs do not use C- grades.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

## Class Policy

No cell phones should ring, vibrate, or otherwise signal from the moment you enter the classroom; they should be turned off. Other personal electronic devices such as laptops, iPads, iPods should also be turned off. If this request is not followed, you will be asked to leave for the session, which will be counted as an absence.

Full participation is expected from the beginning to the end of the session, including paying attention visually and actively always signing. Inappropriate behavior will result in losing participation points or being asked to leave the class.

**The ASL class is a visual modality environment;** therefore, please dress appropriately (Tank tops and midriffs are not permitted) for easy sign viewing (solid contrasting tops, muted makeup, jewelry, etc.) for any lesson.

## **PROTOCOL FOR PRODUCTION OF MEDIA**

**Make sure you sign the following information on each video project in Canvas using FlipGrid.**

When producing visual/gestural material, by signing or interpreting, the student must be aware of procedures that will **enhance** production:

- **Backgrounds** should be a **solid** color that contrasts with a student's skin color
- **The color of clothes** should be a **solid** color that contrasts with a student's skin color.
- Light skinned students wear darker solid color tops.
- Darker-skinned students wear lighter solid color tops.

- Tops should have sleeves; midriff should not be showing, low cut or sleeveless tops not permitted.
- Tops should not have distractions: buttons, emblems, and graphics.

### **Distractions**

- Hair should be out of the face. Do not wear a hat.
- Do **NOT** sign in the BEDROOM/BATHROOM/LIVING ROOM. It is preferable in a room with a neat background. Also, do not involve children or someone that is not involved or pets in the video assignment.
- Jewelry should not be distracting dangling earrings, shiny necklaces, and sparkly pins.
- Gum chewing is **NOT** permitted.

**If students do not follow the protocol, this will result in twopoints being deducted from the final grade of the material produced. Exercises from the TWA Student Ebooks** will be assigned each week. Students will be prepared to demonstrate their receptive and expressive sign skills during the class.

\*\*All must follow the basic ASL cultural rules of eye contact and always signing in the classroom and around any Deaf signers. \*\*

### **COURSE EVALUATION:**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> ([Links to an external site.](https://evaluations.ufl.edu))[Links to an external site.](https://evaluations.ufl.edu) Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results> ([Links to an external site.](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results))[Links to an external site.](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results)

Occasionally the teacher may conduct informal surveys to evaluate the progress of the class. This does not substitute for the formal online evaluations which must still be done.

### **Exam Policy**

#### **Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work**

Please note: Any requests for make-up due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the UF Computing help desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>) correspondence. You **MUST** e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

#### **Policy Related to Required Class Attendance**

Please note all faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/#text>). Additional information can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT**

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

**“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”**

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

**“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”**

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>  
<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

### **Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Policy Related to Guests Attending Class:**

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Please note that guests are not permitted to attend either cadaver or wet labs. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance.

For additional information, please review the classroom Guests of Students policy in its entirety. Link to full policy: <http://facstaff.phhp.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodation. The Dean of Students' Office will provide documentation of accommodation for you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodation. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to assist students in their coursework.

### **Counseling and Student Health**

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. Online and in person assistance is available.
- U Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789  
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>
- University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

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Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

### **Inclusive Learning Environment**

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious, and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to nondiscrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information, and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for the inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: [www.multicultural.ufl.edu](http://www.multicultural.ufl.edu)

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Monday, September 5 – Labor Day College CLOSED

November 23-26, 2022 – Thanksgiving Break

## **Course Calendar Fall 2022**

Instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and assignment due dates.\*

You will be using FlipGrid for your SOAR assignments and Production tests.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Unit</b>
Aug 24 <sup>th</sup>	Syllabus – Welcome! & Parameters of ASL
1	Visual Sign Gesture (VSG) <b>Unit 1: Welcome to the Deaf World!</b> Unit 1.1 Snapshots, Discussion & Worksheet, and Quiz
2	Unit 1.2 & 1.3 Snapshots, Discussion & Worksheet, and Quiz <b>(Monday, Labor Day, no class)</b>
3	Unit 1.4 & 1.5 Snapshots, Discussion & Worksheet, and Quiz
4	<b>Unit 1 Review : POA, Story Comprehension &amp; SOAR and Tests – Video Reflection Summary Due</b> Test in class on Wednesday-please bring your tablet/laptop Production test will be open on Wednesday-Thursday, you will complete this test at home.
5	<b>Unit 2: Academics</b> Unit 2.1 & 2.2 & 2.3 Snapshots, Discussion & Worksheet, and Quiz
6	Unit 2.4 & 2.5 Snapshots, Discussion & Worksheet, and Quiz
7	<b>Unit 2 Review: POA, Story Comprehension &amp; SOAR and Tests – Video Reflection Summary Due</b> Test in class on Wednesday-please bring your tablet/laptop Production test will be open on Wednesday-Thursday, you will complete this test at home.
8	<b>Unit 3: Family and Relationships</b> Unit 3.1 & 3.2 Snapshots, Discussion & Worksheet, and Quiz
9	Unit 3.3 & 3.4 Snapshots, Discussion & Worksheet, and Quiz
10	<b>Unit 3 Review: POA, Story Comprehension &amp; SOAR and Tests – Video Reflection Summary Due</b> Test in class on Wednesday-please bring your tablet/laptop Production test will be open on Wednesday-Thursday, you will complete this test at home.
11	<b>Unit 4: Residences and Communities</b> Unit 4.1 – 4.2 Snapshots, Discussion & Worksheet, and Quiz (Thursday, Veterans Day, no class)

12	Unit 4.3 & 4.4 Snapshots, Discussion & Worksheet, and Quiz
13	Thanksgiving break
14	<b>Unit 4 Review: POA, Story Comprehension &amp; SOAR and Tests – Video Reflection Summary Due</b> Test in class on Wednesday-please bring your tablet/laptop Production test will be open on Wednesday-Thursday, you will complete this test at home.
15	Grading week!