

**Blinn College
Brenham/Bryan Campus
American Sign Language I
(SGNL 1401/Section 01)**

Spring 2010

Professor: Robyn J. Marcak

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Office: Academic Bldg 4/31 (Brenham)
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Hours: M/W 9:00 am to 9:50 am (Brenham)
T/Th 8:00 am to 9:00 am (Bryan)
5:10 pm to 7:10 pm (Bryan)
By Appointment

Office Phone: 979-209-7529

Call me through Sorenson Video Relay Service if you need to get a hold of me.

1) Dial toll free: 1-866-327-8877

2) When asked, provide my full name and videophone number:

a) Robyn J. Marcak

b) 979-209-7529

3) A Sorenson video relay interpreter will connect us.

Website: <http://www.blinn.edu/brazos/humanities/rmarcak>

Links: <http://www.aslpro.com> <http://netac.rit.edu/goals>

Courses/Labs: M/W SGNL 1401 01 1:10-2:25 pm/2:35-3:25 pm (Wed)

Classrooms: 1:10 ACAD 7/WR (Brenham)

Course Description: SGNL 1401:

This course is an introduction to American Sign Language and Deaf Culture class. Students acquire an understanding of multiple aspects of Deaf Culture, including its history, alphabet, vocabulary, correct grammatical structures, conversational behaviors, and social customs. There is no prerequisite for this class. It is a 3 hour class and it also has 2 hour lab time. The credit contains 4 semester hours.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

In this course, the students will acquire the following areas:

- demonstrate receptive/expressive skills in ASL
- use facial expressions/body language in ASL
- converse familiar signs in ASL
- discuss various issues in the deaf culture and ASL
- develop speed/clarity of brief conversations in ASL
- identify grammatical structures in ASL
- apply history of deaf education through ASL

Required Texts:

- **Signing Naturally: Level 1** (student workbook/videotape)
Smith, Lentz, and Mikos
- **ABC Basic Book** (Supplemental Book)
Humphries, Padden, and O'Rourke
- **For Hearing People Only**
Moore and Levitan
- **A Loss for Words**
Walker

Required Materials:

- Binder with Dividers (5)
- Black Pens/Pencils
- Blank Videotape or Blank DVD (to film on your own for a project if time permits)

Tentative Course Schedule:

Dates:	Activities/Assignments:	Objectives/Details:
1/20	Unit 1 (SN1) Lessons 1 & 2 (ABC) Read FHPO Ch. 1 & 2/LFW *watch VT/partners do Conv. 1 & 2 *quiz on Unit 1/Lesson 1 & 2 Pre-test Worksheet Lab: Bravo #1	develop receptive/expressive skills understand grammar/cultural notes
1/25 & 1/27	Unit 2 (SN1) Lesson 3 (ABC) Read FHPO Ch. 3-8/LFW *watch VT/partners do Conv. 1 & 2 *quiz over Unit 2/Lesson 3 Lab: Bravo #2	develop receptive/expressive skills understand grammar/cultural notes
2/1 & 2/3	Library Day *attend library to get articles *work on reports Lab: Animated ASL Signs	identify deaf individuals/background experiences
2/8 & 2/10	Movie Day/Videotape Series *take notes Transcription Symbols Notes Classifiers Notes Lab: Research on ASL Structure	recognize signs/deaf individuals understand grammar/cultural notes
2/15 & 2/17	TEST #1 (Units 1 & 2; Lesson 1-3; FHPO 1-8) Read FHPO Ch. 9-15/LFW Date for Test #1: _____ Project #1 Lab: Bravo #3	identify correct answers

2/22 & 2/24	Unit 3 (SN1) Lessons 4 & 5 (ABC) Read FHPO Ch. 16-20/LFW *watch VT/partners do Conv. 1 & 2 *quiz over Unit 3/Lessons 4 & 5 Lab: Bravo #4	develop receptive/expressive skills understand grammar/cultural notes
3/1 & 3/3	Unit 4 (SN1) Lessons 6 & 7 (ABC) Read FHPO Ch. 21-25/LFW *watch VT/partners do Conv. 1 & 2 *quiz over Unit 4/Lessons 6 & 7 Lab: Bravo #5	develop receptive/expressive skills understand grammar/cultural notes
3/8 & 3/10	Unit 5 (SN1) Lesson 8 & 9 (ABC) Read FHPO Ch. 26-30/LFW *watch VT/partners do Conv. 1 & 2 *quiz over Unit 5/Lessons 8 & 9 Project #2 Lab: Bravo #6	develop receptive/expressive skills understand grammar/cultural notes
3/15-3/19	Spring Break	
3/22 & 3/24	TEST #2 (Units 3-5; Lesson 4-9; FHPO 9-30) Read FHPO Ch. 31-35/LFW Date for Test #2: _____ Lab: Bravo #7	identify correct answers
3/29 & 3/31	Unit 6 (SN1) Lesson 10 & 11 (ABC) Read FHPO 36-45/LFW *watch VT/partners do Conversation 1 & 2 *quiz over Unit 6/Lessons 10 & 11 Lab: Bravo #8	develop receptive/expressive skills understand grammar/cultural notes
4/5 & 4/7	Transcriptions/Classifiers Worksheet Lesson 12 (ABC) Read FHPO 46-65/LFW *watch VT/partners do Conversation 1 & 2 *quiz over Lesson 12 Lab: Animated ASL Signs/Phrases	develop receptive/expressive skills understand grammar/cultural notes
4/12 & 4/14	Questions over FHPO *Part A, B, C Questions over A Loss for Words Lab: Animated ASL Phrases	identify correct answers
4/19 & 4/21	Discuss Questions over FHPO Movie Day *take notes Lab: Animated ASL Quizzes (Speed)	recognize correct answers

4/26 & 4/28 Discuss any questions on Units/Lessons
and FHPO/LFW
Project #3

5/3 & 5/5 Review/Last Day of Classes
Post-test Worksheet

5/6-5/12 Final Exams

Final Exam will be given on:

Monday, May 10th, at 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
(Brenham)/SGNL 1401/01 1:10 Class

Plan to take the final at the above time as no early or late finals will be given. You need to take the final exam as scheduled. No exceptions!

This schedule is tentative. If there are any changes, it will be announced during class time. Students are responsible for knowing about these changes even if they were absent.

Course Requirements:

First and foremost, this class will be what you make of it. Learning a visual language takes effort and persistence - it's unlike anything you've ever attempted. English and American Sign Language are two completely different languages! It is essential that you make every effort to attend EVERY class on time and participate in the class activities. This course utilizes visual stimuli to promote skills development. There is no way to make up an absence. You will be involved in receptive and expressive activities. There will be pre and post tests, projects, quizzes, reports, social events, tests and final exam.

Grading Criteria:

*10 Quizzes	100 points
*2 Tests	100 points
*3 Deaf Social Events	120 points
*6 ASL Conversations 1 & 2	120 points
*6 Lab Assignments	120 points
*1 Final Exam (including Post Test)	130 points
*Pre Test	20 points
*1 LFW Group Participation/ASL	40 points
*1 Transcriptions/Classifiers Worksheet	40 points
*1 Report	50 points
*3 Projects	90 points
*1 Attendance Sheet	90 points
a) No Voice	
b) Participation	
c) Use of ASL	

Outcome Final Grade	
A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59-50

Total: 1020 points

No talking or use of voice will be tolerated during class sessions. The skills to be developed in this class depend on visual perception and visual memory. The use of auditory clues inhibits this learning process for the person speaking and for those who are distracted by that person's voice. In a true cross-cultural experience between those who are Deaf and those who are Hearing, it is important to respect a Deaf person's position on the discriminatory use of voice in his/her presence. Every time you use your voice, 5 points will be docked each time your voice is used in class from daily grade (ex: used voice 3 times Monday night - 15 points docked). Using voice during test to help others cheat is a distraction, will result in immediate "0" as a final grade on that test.

Service Learning Project combines community service with classroom instruction or student club activities, focusing on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility to engage students. Service Learning programs involve students in activities that address local needs while developing their academic or professional skills and commitment to their community. If you do ASL/Deaf social events and workshops, you must have at least 10 hours of community service. Once you complete the project; you will receive a Blinn Certificate for recognition.

Blinn Policies:

(You should consult your Blinn Student Handbook for more details on the following topics).

Disability Policy: Students with documented disabilities may seek support from Blinn College's Office of Disability Services (209-7251). Students are encouraged to contact this office as early as possible to initiate services. The student must then discuss requested accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive.

Incomplete Policy: A grade of "I" incomplete may be given ONLY in emergencies such as the serious illness of the student or a close family member. This grade is not for students who fall behind in their work. To receive an incomplete, the student must have satisfactorily completed all but one or two of the final requirements of the course. The instructor, student and division chair must all sign the incomplete contract. All work must be made up within 90 days of the course completion contract or zeros will be assigned for the incomplete work. The instructor will then average these zeros with the rest of the grades to compute a final course grade and will fill out a grade change and submit to the Division Chair.

W/WF/WP Policy: Students who drop a course prior to the official drop deadline in a semester will receive a grade of W. Students who drop after the official drop date will receive a grade of WF. A student may request of the instructor that this WF be changed to a WP, providing the student is passing on the day he/she drops the course. To change the grade, the instructor will fill out a grade change form with the Division Chair.

Scholastic Integrity Policy

Blinn instructors are responsible for maintaining scholastic integrity by refusing to tolerate any form of scholastic dishonesty. As academic honesty is stressed in all classes, there is no distinction between intentional and unintentional plagiarism. According to the *Blinn College Student Handbook*, violations of the Scholastic Integrity Policy "shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion." This handbook defines "plagiarism" as "the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work." Blinn College stipulates that "collusion" is the "unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements." Violations of the Scholastic Integrity Policy may result in a "penalty ranging from a grade of zero on the assignment/examination up to and including the imposition of an *F* for the entire course."

Textbook Policy: The assigned textbooks are essential for your learning, especially in classes focusing on the study of the written word. You must provide yourself with the books from the very beginning of the semester. You are required to bring the textbook with you every day unless otherwise notified. You may not share the textbook during class or use photocopied pages instead of the book. Students who fail to bring the textbook to class will be penalized.

Civility Policy: Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. If student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

Attendance Policy: *“The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students place themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster, through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be sent an email by the College District requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. Should the student accumulate two weeks' worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.”* Blinn College policy allows excused absences for two reasons: documented attendance at a Blinn-sponsored function or for a religious holy day.

Electronic Device Policy: *“All the functions of all personal electronic devices designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight in all College District classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the College District civility policy (administrative policy). Additionally, any communication understood by the instructor to be in the nature of cheating shall have consequences in accordance with the section in this policy regarding academic dishonesty. Students exempted from this policy section will include active members of firefighting organizations, emergency medical services organizations, commissioned police officers, on-call employees of any political subdivision of the state of Texas, or agencies of the federal government. Exempted students are expected to set the emergency-use devices on silent or vibrate mode only.”*

Email Account Policy: All Blinn students are provided a Blinn email account. Students should activate their accounts and check their email regularly, or have the Blinn email account set to an auto-forward for an email account that is checked regularly.

NO FOOD OR DRINKS IN ANY CLASSROOMS OR LABORATORIES

Humanities Division Policies:

Mid-term grades: Although not required by Blinn College, this Division does require that all instructors inform their students, *in writing*, of their standing at mid-term each semester.

Instructor/Course Policies:

Exams will have three parts: written (based on texts and lectures), receptive (teacher will sign material and you will write down the correct answers), and expressive (you and/or a partner will be videotaped during signing an assigned dialogue or demonstrate it in front of instructor).

If you are absent more than 4 times, you will be dropped from my class automatically. There is no way you can get back into my class. Be aware of that!

Make-up work/exams will only be allowed in cases of dire emergency in case of death in the family or emergency surgery only. Your make-up grade will be docked 25 points automatically from the grade you earned on make-up assignments based on the two cases mentioned above. Do NOT schedule doctor or dental appointments DURING my class times! At the instructor's discretion, make-up exams and other assignments, if allowed, may be different from the original assignments.

Familiarize yourself with the texts, the videotape, and your classmates. I suggest you review your units before, during, and after they are assigned. Also, it is a good idea to team up with some of your classmates to practice what you are learning. Fingerspell every word you see! Use every sign you know! Practice, practice, practice!!!