

instructors:

Instructor Benjamin Lewis | email: Benjaminlewis@ucla.edu | office hour: 2-3 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces the students to basic knowledge about American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf people. There will also be extensive study on the Deaf Culture and Community. Topics will be presented in readings, videos and discussions in ASL.

TEXTBOOK & RESOURCES:

1. Signing Naturally Level 1 (can be found on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)) UNIT 1-6 & UNIT 7-12 worksheet (**optional**)
2. GoReact for Video Journal www.goreact.com **REQUIRED!**

ONLINE ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is a must online. Because this language is visual it cannot be taught from a book, it must be experienced first hand. If a student has frequent absences, that student will miss out on the opportunity to learn and practice new vocabulary and concepts. There is no way to assign book work to makeup what is missed online. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to incorporate the material covered online into your studies. You still are responsible for any missed course work, or you will be assessed a zero for any assignments due that day.

Attendance policy: Students must attend class at the assigned time. A screenshot of attendees will be taken before the start of each class to mark your attendance. Failure to attend will negatively impact your attendance grade.

CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION:

I expect you to demonstrate an individual positive, sincere, and enthusiastic attitude and work ethic towards improving your ASL skills, and contribute towards a positive learning environment for everyone in this class. I encourage you to ask questions as much as possible! I may not have all the answers, but I expect you to exhibit curiosity and take responsibility for your learning, which will only motivate my teaching. In short, I expect you to be good citizens and work in a way respectful and encouraging towards everyone through online. We will be using ZOOM/CANVAS/Vimeo for class learning environment.

TESTS AND QUIZZES:

You must be present when quizzes and tests are given in order to receive credit. No make-ups or exceptions will be given for missed quizzes or tests, unless proof of a legitimate personal or medical emergency is shown. As with my attendance policy, you are to notify me immediately of any situation via email, and we will then discuss next steps.

Make-up exams will not be given. If a legitimate medical or personal crisis occurs, you must inform your instructor immediately with documentation and we will discuss next steps, if warranted.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students are expected to follow standards of academic integrity. As specified in the UCLA Student Conduct Code, violations or attempted violations of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions or facilitating academic dishonesty, amongst others. Dishonest academic conduct will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. See

<http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/> for further information.

STATEMENT ON VIDEO SUBMISSIONS:

You will create your own video journal using GoReact. You should make sure the video is appropriately labeled

“Video Journal #1” Things to consider when recording your video journal are:

- Appropriate placement of body, face, and hands, so they are visible. A medium shot works best.
- Appropriate lighting, clothing, and background. No loud or distracting patterns or colors. Consider clothing that contrasts with your skin tone, and background that contrasts with your clothing.
- Appropriate quality/smoothness of picture and playability.
- Making eye contact with the camera, and not the playback of yourself on the screen. This will enhance your production of ASL since you won't be evaluating/editing yourself as you produce signs. If you post a video that is not on par with the expected quality or standards, I reserve the right to not accept and grade your assignment. As a result, you may earn a failing grade for this assignment.

ONLINE DESCRIPTION:

You will be learning ASL / Deaf culture via online videos. Your instructor will post a video under CANVAS weekly. It is your responsibility to watch the entire video(s). Class meets on ZOOM daily (Monday to Thursday) from 1 to 2pm.

Daily Class Schedule	
9:30 – 11:50 am	Lecture Video / In-class assignments (Asynchronously)
12 – 1 pm	Lunch Break
1 – 2 pm	ZOOM CLASS Meet on ZOOM (Synchronous)
2 – 3:30 pm	Office Hour



EVALUATION/GRADING:

You will be evaluated through the grade percentage breakdown as follows. The plus/minus grading system will be used when assigning final letter grades for this course:

Category	Percentage
Video Journal x4	10%
In-class Assignments	10%
Midterm Written	12.5%
Midterm Presentation	12.5%
Quizzes	10%
Interview	10%
Participation/No Voice Usage/Attendance	5%
Final Exam Presentation	15%
Final Exam Written	15%
TOTAL	100%

Grade Scale:	
A+	97 – 100%
A	93 – 96%
A-	90 – 92%
B+	87 – 89%
B	83 – 86%
B-	80 – 82%
C+	77 – 79%
C	73 – 76%
C-	70 – 72%
D+	67 – 69%
D	63 – 66%
D-	60 – 62%
F	59% or below



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Introduction / UNIT 1	UNIT 1 in-class assignment	UNIT 2	UNIT 2 <i>in-class</i> assignments	QUIZ on UNIT 1/2 Interview
Week 2	UNIT 3 Video Journal #1 Due	UNIT 3 in-class assignment	UNIT 4 in-class assignment	QUIZ on UNIT 3/4 Interview	NO CLASS Holiday
Week 3	UNIT 5	UNIT 5 <i>in-class</i> assignments	UNIT 6	UNIT 6 <i>in-class</i> assignments	QUIZ on UNIT 5/6 Interview
Week 4	UNIT 7	UNIT 7 <i>in-class</i> assignments	UNIT 8	UNIT 8 <i>in-class</i> assignments	QUIZ on UNIT 7/8 Interview
Week 4	UNIT 9 Video Journal #3 Due	UNIT 9 <i>in-class</i> assignments	UNIT 10	UNIT 10 <i>in-class</i> assignments	QUIZ on UNIT 9/10 Interview
Week 5	UNIT 11	UNIT 11 <i>in-class</i> assignments	UNIT 12	Storytelling (ASL Lit)	QUIZ on UNIT 11/12 Interview
Week 6	Missing Ring Activity	Deaf Art	Final Presentation	Review	Final Exam

DISCLAIMER AND POSSIBILITY OF SCHEDULE CHANGE:

The course meeting times and assignment due dates initially set forth are subject to reasonable change by the instructor at any time. These changes may be announced during the class meeting time and put into writing on CANVAS. It is the student's responsibility to consult the course website daily for updates.