



## Sign Language (SGNL) 1301

### Sign Language I

Fall 2021

Thursdays 6:00pm-8:50pm

**Instructor:** Jenifer Cook

**Email:** Blackboard “Messages” or [jpickett3@com.edu](mailto:jpickett3@com.edu)

**Office hours and location:** Online: Tue. 6-7pm or by appt.

**Required Textbook:** As this class is highly interactive, no textbook is required.

**Course Description:** Introduction to American Sign Language including the development finger spelling, vocabulary, basic sentence structure, and Deaf culture/history in preparing individuals to interpret oral speech.

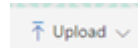
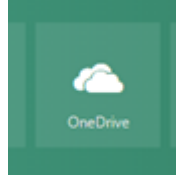
#### Course requirements (including description of any special projects or assignments):

\*\*\*Students will need a personal electronic device with internet access. As well, students may be required to complete assignments online, outside of class.

- **EdPuzzle-** Students will be required to make an account for EdPuzzle. This is a free online resource for students to review vocabulary. All vocabulary will be uploaded and available to review. The following is the link for EdPuzzle:
  - <https://edpuzzle.com/>Students who already have an account will sign in using the code bajgejl. This code is *case sensitive*. Students will select the “I’m a new student” button on the right. Students will sign up using their first name, student email and a password.
- **Blackboard-** Please check the email provided to the school (Blackboard email) and grades at least once per week.  
\*\*\*Students **WILL** be given assignments using the Blackboard system. These assignments will have specific due dates, which will be strictly adhered to. While not all assignments will be done using Blackboard, students need to be aware of and prepared to use Blackboard on a weekly basis. This requires bringing a **charged laptop** or personal tablet to class **daily**.\*\*\*
- **Office 365:** Office 365 OneDrive is essential to success in this class. Students will be making videos (to use later in later classes or as a personal portfolio) and uploading them

to OneDrive. Students will then create a link to their OneDrive video and post them to Blackboard.

How to upload to one Drive: Sign in to your Office 365 account using you school username and password.



Go to One Drive: Click the button. Once the upload is complete,

click the  button. Go to the assignment on Blackboard. Paste the link as your Answer and submit.

\*\*\*Be sure to double check that your link is working. If you have trouble, please contact me through Blackboard 'Messages' or at [jpickett3@com.edu](mailto:jpickett3@com.edu).\*\*\*

### **Optional:**

These are free resources students may use to supplement in-class studies.

- [www.lifeprint.com](http://www.lifeprint.com) (Vocabulary)
- [www.asl.ms](http://www.asl.ms) (Fingerspelling practice)
- [www.asl.bz](http://www.asl.bz) (Number practice)

American Sign Language is a visual language, so this course will require a high level of visual attention. As such, students may be asked to turn off and/or put away any electronic devices unless indicated otherwise by the instructor. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in disciplinary action.

### **Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula (methods of evaluation to be employed to include a variety of means to evaluate student performance):**

Course grades are determined based upon the following:

- Student attendance: Students are expected to attend every class as scheduled. Failure to do so will result in a drop in letter grade per absence. As well, lateness will NOT be tolerated. 3 instances of tardiness will also result in a drop of letter grade.
- Student proficiency per assignment (determined by a rubric based upon the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language guidelines-this will be provided before each assignment)  
-Each assignment will be graded based upon a rubric developed to fit the assignment. Proficiency will be determined by appropriate situational use and accuracy of interpersonal skills, presentational skills, and interpretive skills.
- Student language use: Students are expected to participate and *use American Sign Language* in every class. Students will be required to present assignments both to the professor and to the class. Failure to participate will result in a drop in grades.

## Grading:

- 1. Group Presentations** (Presentational Assessments)
  - Students will be given nine group presentations throughout the semester. These will count for 15 points each (with one assignment counting double), totaling 150 points toward the overall grade.
- 2. Individual Presentations** (Presentational Assessments)
  - Students will be given five individual presentations throughout the course of the semester. They will count 30 points each, totaling 150 points toward the overall grade.
- 3. Individual Videos** (Presentational and Interpersonal Assessments)
  - Students will be given eight individual video assessments given throughout the semester. They will be worth 25 points each, totaling 200 points toward the overall grade.
- 4. Interpretive Assessments**
  - Students will be given two individual interpretive assessments given throughout the semester. They will be worth 25 points each (with one assignment counting double), totaling 75 points toward the overall grade.
- 5. Interpersonal Assessments**
  - Students will be given one individual interpersonal assessment given throughout the semester. It will be worth 25 points, totaling 25 points toward the overall grade.
- 6. Deaf Culture Event**
  - Students will be required to attend one Deaf event throughout the semester. It will be worth 100 points, totaling 100 points toward the overall grade. **DUE-December 9<sup>th</sup> by 11:59**
- 7. Final: Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational Assessment**
  - Students will be given a 3 part final, totaling 300 points toward the overall grade
  - Presentational: totaling 100 points
  - Interpretive: totaling 100 points
  - Interpersonal: totaling 100 points

## Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Points	GPA
A	900-1000	4.0
B	800-899	3.0
C	700-799	2.0
D	600-699	1.0
F	0-599	0.0

**Make-Up Policy:** Generally, assignments that are late will not be accepted. Students need to contact the professor in the case of special circumstances prior to the due date. Circumstances will be taken into consideration, but will be determined on a case-to-case basis.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend every class as scheduled. Failure to do so will result in a drop in letter grade per absence. Please ensure personal business is taken care of before or after class.

Students should also expect to spend one to two hours minimum working and studying additional resources. Further social interaction with d/Deaf persons will also likely improve language acquisition.

**Tardiness Policy:** Students are expected to be on time to every class. Students more than 20 minutes late will not be admitted to class. 3 instances of tardiness will also result in a drop of letter grade.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to this Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
The student communicates in ASL using expressive and receptive communication skills without voice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Project: Travel</li> </ul>
The student gains knowledge and understanding of American Deaf culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Responsibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Deaf Event</li> </ul>
The student uses ASL to make connections with other subject areas and to acquire information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical Thinking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Project: Travel</li> </ul>
The student develops insight into the nature of language and culture by comparing the student's own language and culture to ASL and American Deaf culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Responsibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Project: Travel</li> </ul>
The student participates in the Deaf/ASL community by using ASL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Responsibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside of class: student d/Deaf events</li> </ul>

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student handbook. Academic dishonesty such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Plagiarism:**

The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, in any form. This includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying any information directly from a website and using the information in your own work, or passing another's phrase off as your own without quotations. Any plagiarized material used in class will receive a grade of zero. The student(s) involved will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Link(s) to resource(s) about ways to avoid plagiarism:**

<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

**Concerns/Questions Statement:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Department Chair, Brian Anderson at 409-933-8186.

**Course outline:**

Date	Lecture Topics	Due Dates/Homework
Aug . 26th	Syllabus/Procedure, ACTFL Discussion, ABC's, # 1-12 (Age/Name) Get to know classmate Intro. to My Bag, Lesson 1 Intro. to Deaf Culture <b>Deaf Culture group presentation</b>	<b>My Bag video-due by Wed. Sept. 1st @11:59</b>
Sept . 2nd	Intro. to glossing, Building vocabulary (Lesson 2), Continuing vocabulary (Lesson 3), <b>Family story presentation (groups of 2-3)</b> Comparing hearing and Deaf culture Discuss communication methods	<b>Hearing and Deaf culture and communication methods comparison video due by Wed. Sept. 8th @11:59</b>
Sept . 9th	Deaf Hist. Notes L. 4, feelings game Discuss facial expressions <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G6ZR5IJgTI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G6ZR5IJgTI</a> and etiquette,	<b>Family tree proj. video draft due by Wed. Sept. 15th @11:59</b>

	<p><b>Deaf Hist. presentation</b>  Review ABC, L. 1-4,  Intro. to family tree project, break,  Work on family tree (draft due by the end of class)</p>	
Sept . 16 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Present family tree projects,</b>  Noun/Verb pairs, eye gaze, directionality,  Lesson 5  <b>Group Activity: Presentation about how social media affects family (ex. dinnertime)</b></p>	<p>Watch  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ASLsocialmedia">https://tinyurl.com/ASLsocialmedia</a>  <b>Make a video with your 7 favorite signs, describing</b>  <b>-how you use them</b>  <b>-how they can influence the Deaf community (+ and -)</b>  <b>-due Wed. Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> by 11:59</b></p>
Sept . 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<p><b>Random Family Tree assessment (individual 1st, then discuss as a group),</b>  Lesson 6,  timelines (w/voc. words),  communication methods  Famous Deaf people PPT</p>	<p>Current Deaf Event-due next class  (presenting in ASL)  <u>Due: 9/30 during class</u></p>
Sept . 30 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Present Current Deaf Event</b>  Lesson 7-8,  Descriptive Classifiers:  -<a href="https://tinyurl.com/ASLCL1">https://tinyurl.com/ASLCL1</a>  -<a href="https://tinyurl.com/ASLCL2">https://tinyurl.com/ASLCL2</a>  -<a href="https://tinyurl.com/ASLCL3">https://tinyurl.com/ASLCL3</a>  -<a href="https://tinyurl.com/ASLCL4">https://tinyurl.com/ASLCL4</a>  <b>Group Skit-Fancy Night Out</b></p>	<p><b>Classifier story video-due by Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> @11:59</b></p>
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Lesson 9-10, Charades,  <b>Animal story,</b>  Helen Keller, PPT</p>	<p>Deaf/blind Activity</p>
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Lesson 11-12 and Halloween  <b>Group skit: Emergency and solve it</b>  Discuss Deaf/Blind,  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ASLfsdoanddont">https://tinyurl.com/ASLfsdoanddont</a> (fs dos and donts)  <b>Watch <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ASLCLstory">https://tinyurl.com/ASLCLstory</a> (CL interpretive story)</b></p>	<p><b>video-mid semester thoughts (pros, cons, success, struggle, etc.)</b>  <b>-due by Wed. Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> @11:59</b></p>
Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<p>L. 13-14,  Element classifiers,  Discuss Deaf culture and news  Daily Moth,  <a href="http://deafnewstoday.blogspot.com/">http://deafnewstoday.blogspot.com/</a>,  <a href="https://dpan.tv/series/dtv-news">https://dpan.tv/series/dtv-news</a>,</p>	<p><b>Individual Timeline Video due by Wed. Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> @11:59</b></p>

	<a href="https://dpan.tv/series/dtv-news/episode/al-green-argues-for-impeachment">https://dpan.tv/series/dtv-news/episode/al-green-argues-for-impeachment</a>	
	<b>Group Presentation-Newspaper article</b>	
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	L. 15-16, Fairytale charades, <b>Group Fairytale-stories</b> Locative CL, <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ASLLCL">https://tinyurl.com/ASLLCL</a> , Discuss food trucks <b>Food Truck Presentation: Individual</b> Watch <a href="https://tinyurl.com/MTThank">https://tinyurl.com/MTThank</a> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/KPThanks">https://tinyurl.com/KPThanks</a>	Make your own Thankful video: Min. 3 min. in ASL -due by Wed. Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup> @11:59
Nov . 4 <sup>th</sup>	L. 17-18, <b>Watch each other's "Thankful" videos</b> Discuss NI and Habit. Watch: The Enchanting Music of Sign Language   Christine Sun Kim Intro. to final project (travel-plan a trip)	<b>The Enchanting Music of Sign Language   Christine Sun Kim: video summary</b> <b>-due by Wed. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup></b>
Nov . 11 <sup>th</sup>	DCL guess who game L. 19-20, <b>Expressive assessment 1:1 (others will work on final)</b> <b>Awards Show: group (counts as 2 groups assessments)</b>	Final project video draft-due by Wed. Dec. 8th by 11:59pm
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Deaf Person IPA-edpuzzle Intro to ASL presentation Review for final	Intro to ASL presentation due next class- Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Intro. To ASL presentations</b> Discuss final questions	Prep for final
Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Final project: Expressive, receptive, interpersonal	

## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <[https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.* [https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Counseling Statement:** Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email [counseling@com.edu](mailto:counseling@com.edu) to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 2.

**F<sub>N</sub> Grading:** The F<sub>N</sub> grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F<sub>N</sub> grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the F<sub>N</sub> grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F<sub>N</sub> grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program



you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**COVID-19 Statement:** All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at [www.com.edu/coronavirus](http://www.com.edu/coronavirus). In compliance with [Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order](#), face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit [com.edu/coronavirus](http://com.edu/coronavirus) for future updates.

**Disclaimers/Additional Policies (Individual faculty policies that may not fit under other sections):**

**Technology Outage:** In the event you experience a technology problem, it is your responsibility to communicate immediately with your instructor and the DE department at College of the Mainland (COM). It is a good idea to make a screenshot of the error and email it to me as well as the Distance Education Helpdesk. Contacting COM's Distance Education department can be accomplished by submitting a ticket anytime at <http://com.parature.com> or via live chat Monday to Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM, whenever the college is open. If the issue does not clear up and if there is no way around it, you may email your assignment to me directly at [jpickett3@com.edu](mailto:jpickett3@com.edu).

**Class Expectations**

- There is **NO** talking during designated Sign Days. If you do not comply, you will lose points from your participation grade. Similarly, if you choose not to participate during class, points will again be deducted from your grade. Further infractions could lead to disciplinary action. \*Please be aware, Sign days begin when you enter the classroom.
- This class is a highly interactive discussion-type forum. We will be using ASL every day. Note, language acquisition is developed at different paces. All students should be respectful & polite at all times. Inappropriate behavior/language will not be tolerated.
- **PAY ATTENTION** carefully. Follow instructions the first time. Your **visual attention** is imperative in ASL class. This is especially important in regard to cell phone usage. You are expected to adhere to the policy of no phone use during instructional time unless I explicitly indicate you can. Failure to follow this policy will result in disciplinary action.
- Put all trash in the TRASH CAN.
- Take care of personal business BEFORE or AFTER class (restroom, telephone calls, etc.).
- Do not bring or consume drinks, food, candy, gum, etc. in the classroom.

**Success Tips for Students:** Students should encourage success by engaging in social interactions with d/Deaf people outside of class. As well, students should use any/all available resources to their full advantage and study outside of class.

Student success may also be encouraged through the use of the following:

<http://edpuzzle.com>

<http://lifeprint.com>

<http://asl.ms>

<http://asl.bz>

**Classroom Conduct Policy:** College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line Student Handbook. <http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.php> . Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Dean of Students and may result in dismissal from this class.