**Reedley College**

**American Sign Language 1**

**FALL 2020 TUESDAYS/THURSDAY at 6:00PM-7:50PM**

**Instructor:** Elbert Cruz

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**Office Hours: TBA**

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the basic skills in production and comprehension of American Sign Language (ASL). It includes the manual alphabet and numbers. Develops conversational ability, culturally appropriate behaviors and exposes students to ASL grammar.

**Required Texts/Materials:**

Bryant, R., Gelineau, L., Shannon, T., Harris, R., & Marbury, N. (2019). TRUE+WAY ASL: Unit 1-6 student e-workbook. Austin, TX: Purple [http://truewayasl.com (Links to an external site.)](http://truewayasl.com/)

**Instructional Methodology**

The purpose of this course is designed to help you develop the study skills you need to learn American Sign 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 and Deaf events (Zoom). 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.

**Course Goals**

1.Students will communicate in American Sign Language  
2. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of Deaf Culture  
3. Students will make connections with the use of ASL to understand Deaf Culture  
4. Students will develop insights into the nature of language and culture through comparisons of ASL and Deaf culture and their own culture  
5. Students will participate in the Deaf community through the use of ASL and with knowledge of Deaf Culture

**Students are expected to**:

1.Attend classes regularly and be on time.  
2. Actively participate in class.  
3. Refrain from using voice and minimize English mouthing. Voice interpreting for other students is not permitted. If you do not understand, please ASK! If necessary, TYPE.  
4. Complete all assignments by due date.  
5. Be present for all scheduled quizzes and examinations when scheduled.  
6. Turn off all cell phones during class.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

    Vocabulary Development

1. The student will be exposed to vocabulary items in Units 1-6 of the TRUE+WAY ASLe-workbook.
2. The student will demonstrate comprehensive mastery of targeted vocabulary words drawn from class items and videos.
3. **B**. Grammatical Features
4. Grammatical features of ASL will be utilized in all conversational exchanges and class exercises. The student is encouraged not to think in ENGLISH.
5. Student will demonstrate expressive mastery of dialogues and short sentences, narratives and/or stories utilizing ASL grammatical features.
6. Students will demonstrate the ability to recognize and produce complex ASL sentence structures.
7. Conversational and Communication Skills
8. Student will demonstrate receptive competence for relatively short narratives, stories, and so forth in ASL that are signed by the professor and/or by Deaf users of ASL and fellow classmates.
9. Student will demonstrate the ability to initiate, conduct and terminate context-specific conversations of medium length with Deaf users of ASL other than the professor.
10. The student will demonstrate the ability to express self-generated short stories, short narratives and others in ASL.
11. The student will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively by participating in social/cultural Deaf events and then submitting video presentations based on those events.
12. Cultural Awareness
13. The student will increase his/her awareness of Deaf issues and understand characteristics of American

Deaf Culture and the American Deaf Community as well as experience ASL through a variety of mediums. The mediums are not limited to Deaf functions, but the student is also responsible for the cultural notes from TRUE+WAY ASL, Deaffilms, and cultural information discussed in class.

1. The student will attend social functions/events in which members of the Deaf community are present.
2. While comparing, contrasting, and interpreting differences and commonalities among Deaf and hearing cultures, the student will learn to negotiate between the two languages and cultures.

**General Education Students Learning Outcomes**

As a Core Curriculum course, students completing this course will demonstrate competence in:

* Civic and Cultural Awareness - Analyzing and critiquing competing perspectives in a democratic society; comparing, contrasting, and interpreting differences and commonalities among peoples, ideas, aesthetic traditions, and cultural practices.
* Critical Thinking - Gathering, analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating and applying information.
* Personal Responsibility - Identifying and applying ethical principles and practices; demonstrating effective learning, creative thinking, and personal responsibility.
* Interpersonal Skills - Interacting collaboratively to achieve common goals.
* Written, Oral and Visual Communication - Communicating effectively, adapting to purpose, structure, audience, and medium.
* Technology Skills - Using appropriate technology to retrieve, manage, analyze, and present information.

**Course Grading System:**

**It is your duty to know that your grade will be based on points by what you have completed and turned in. Zero points is zero, and it will greatly affect your final grade. It is also your responsibility to know what you completed and did not complete.**

1. Assignments **20%**TRUE+WAY ASL (TWA)e-Workbook assignments (10%)  
   TWA“SOAR” video assignments (10%)
2. Quizzes **15%**Lecture/TWA Quizzes (10%)  
   Film Quizzes (5%)
3. Unit Tests **30%**
4. Reflection Paper **10%**
5. Final Exam: Expressive **25%**
6. Attendance/participation **20%**

**Assignments:**

No assignment will be accepted after the due date except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique.

**TRUE+WAY ASL (TWA) e-Workbook Assignments**

This workbook is designed to retain and reinforce what is learned in the classroom. Complete the assigned workbook assignments by assigned due dates announced in the class. Late assignments will not be accepted.

**TWA“SOAR” video Assignments**  
The Self-Observation Assessment Review (SOAR) videos at end of each unit in TRUE+WAY ASLe-Workbook website. You are to record your work via CANVAS and submit your video by the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Quizzes:**

**Lecture/TWA Quizzes**

Some quizzes will be announced in class (Zoom) and some will be “pop” quizzes. You may not make up any quizzes you miss – if you miss the quiz, you will get a zero. The quizzes will be based mainly on the ability to comprehend ASL and cultural information. Questions may also be drawn from the reading/viewing of the TRUE+WAY ASLe-workbook/video, video assignments, vocabulary, and from class discussions.

**Reflection Paper**

Watch One Deaf Child: Presentation by Rachel Coleman. Write a typed 2-3 pages paper, double spaced, 12 point font, times new roman, discussing the movie.  Include:

* A brief synopsis/summary
* What you thought about it
* How did what she said challenge your own experience?
* What did you think a deaf child's life was like?
* Did it change your perspective or thoughts on the subject?
* Can you relate to it? Why or why not?
* Does it make you question anything?
* What did you think was interesting?
* Did you agree or disagree with anything?
* What did you learn from the movie and feel deeply?

If you miss a reflection paper, you will get a zero. Late assignments will not be accepted. \*due dates will be announced by your professor \*as assigned throughout the semester.

**Film quizzes**

You are required to view a total of 3 films and complete quizzes in classroom. I will send out the links of movies/videos. You may not make up any quizzes you miss – if you miss the quiz, you will get a zero. \*due dates will be announced by your professor \*as assigned throughout the semester.

**Film Titles:**

* Early Intervention: The Missing Link
* Deaf President Now (DPN)
* Making Education Accessible to Deaf Children

**Unit Tests**: Unit tests will cover all material presented to that point of the class. They will include information from quizzes, TRUE+WAY ASL,class notes, handouts, lectures, vocabulary videos, as well as your receptive skills. There will be **no make-up**of the tests except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique.

# ****Extra Credit****

Extra credit will be available for up to 25 points and will be announced on canvas.

**Final**: This expressive final will include comprehension and production, information from the workbook, videos shown in and out of class, vocabulary videos, class assignments, and discussions. There will be **no make-up**of the final exam except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique.

**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. Write notes to each other if you must or SIGN! This NO VOICE rule will be enforced from the beginning until the end of the class. **Disruptive students will be asked to leave the class.**

**Why?**

Classroom (Zoom) is a good place to train and learn to practice "no voice" habit that will be applied to a cultural behavior and norm in the ASL/Deaf world outside a classroom. Hearing people who know ASL usually talk in ASL in any ASL/Deaf space or in front of any Deaf person to respect their culture and language. The use of voice is a rude or offensive behavior in Deaf space. It demonstrates an ignorance or disrespect for their culture as well as a reminder of the historical oppression. Language and culture are inseparable, integrated, and intertwined. ASL students are not just learning this language, you also learn their culture. Your role is to be an ally. For ASL is the most valued identity of their culture, the ASL natives whose language is regarded as the most precious gift of their culture share their language with you. Learning ASL in class is usually a fun and interesting experience. Students often have a positive learning experience, but also make sure the ASL instructors have a positive teaching experience also. Respect is a peaceful language across all languages and cultures.

**Communication Policy**:

ASL will be used at all times in the classroom (Zoom). In consideration of this policy, before making a comment, ensure you are visually accessible to all classroom (Zoom) students. I encourage you to communicate with me and to work out difficult questions or problems. I am always approachable, so please do not feel or assume that I am “too busy” to talk with you. Let me know if you are going to miss a class or if you are having trouble completing an assignment. I am available by e-mail, or after class.

* Request for make-ups are to be made in advance. Permission will be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

**Attendance and Participation Policy:**

Keep in mind that the class focuses on visual language and it takes time to delve deep into ASL and Deaf culture. Please remember, the camera must be turned on, if the camera is turned off it will not be accepted as present, you will get a zero. Attendance is a priority. I will also assign some readings, activities and special assignments during in the class (Zoom). Those will count towards your in-class grade. Prepare to proceed through the ASL learning quickly. Sometimes you will have pop quizzes and that will count towards the homework grade. No make-ups for any missing pop quizzes.

Daily points will be awarded for attendance and in-class participation. In order to earn all points you must arrive on time, be prepared with readings/materials and actively participate in any classroom (Zoom) activities. Respect should be shown at all times to your classmates, instructor and guests. In addition, adherence to the communication policy is required. Unexcused absences and repeated tardiness will have a negative impact on your grade. It is your responsibility to notify instructor when you will be absent. You are responsible to contact your classmates to make up the assignment or follow up. Attendance, participation and a good attitude are essential to the learning of any language. If you are not here, you are not learning or improving. If you must miss, you are responsible for all information distributed during class, including any changes in the class schedule, so make a friend. Work turned in after an absence will be marked late unless arrangements are made. After THREE unexcusedabsences, each unexcused absence will result in a drop of one letter grade. You are expected to attend all class sessions (Zoom). The class will be challenging and requires attendance to keep your learning on track. Anyone with more than **3**consecutive days.

**Academic Dishonesty Statement:**

Students at Reedley College are entitled to their best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

**Cheating:**

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, including the teacher edition of the textbook, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to copying from another’s work supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another’s words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source(s). Plagiarism may include, but is not limited tom failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

**Consequences:**

* Cheating: Expulsion from the class, failing grade.
* Plagiarism Zero credit given for the assignment.

**Accommodation for** **Disabilities.**[www.reedleycollege.edu](http://www.reedleycollege.edu)  
Reedley College values inclusive learning environments and strives to make all aspects of the College accessible to our students. If you have a disability and believe you need accommodations to improve access to learning materials or the learning environment, please let me know in writing how I can accommodate my class to your needs.

**Assignments/Exam Dates**(Tentative)

TRUE+WAY ASL(TWA) e-Workbook Assignments \*due dates will be announced by your professor \*as assigned throughout the semester

TRUE+WAY ASL(TWA) SOAR video Assignments via CANVAS \*due dates will be announced by your professor \*as assigned throughout the semester

**Test #1** - Unit 1 & 2 October \*due dates will be announced by your professor \*as assigned throughout the semester.

**Test #2**- Unit 3 & 4 November \*due dates will be announced by your professor \*as assigned throughout the semester.

**Test #3**- Unit 5 December \*due dates will be announced by your professor \*as assigned throughout the semester.

**Films**: TBA

**Research Paper**: TBA

**Final Exam**: Expressive portion & ONLINE video submit through CANVAS TBA