UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Spring
Course Prefix: ASL
Course Title: American Sign Language Linguistics

Year: 2025
Course and Section #: 3410-001
Credits: 3

Course Description

Introduces the linguistic study of ASL, including phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and discourse structure. Emphasize grammatical structures of ASL, including sign formation, pronominalization, identification and analysis of subjects and objects, classifiers, depicting verbs, pluralization, time concepts, and social interaction of language and culture within Deaf communities. Taught in ASL.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:
☐ General Education Requirements
☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
☒ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
☐ Open Elective
Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Michelle Heathington

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the mechanisms by which American Sign Language utilizes the spatial medium in which it exists to express grammatical relationships.
2. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the various linguistic elements in American Sign Language and how those elements interact with one another in the formation of sentences.
3. Describe how mental space theory is applied to the study of American Sign Language.
4. Articulate the various insights into how human minds work that can be gained through a study of the spatial nature of signed languages in general and of American Sign Language in particular.

Course Materials and Texts

Valli, C., Lucas, C., Mulrooney, K.,
& Villanueva, M. (2011). Linguistics
of American Sign Language: An
Introduction. 5th Edition. Washington,
DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy
Context: This semester has six (6) Parts. Each week will be bundled in a module with course materials. Every week's module will be available once you complete the requirements from the previous week except for the Week 1 Module. If you did not complete all requirements for the previous week module by the due date(s), your instructor will open the current Week Module on Mondays.
Attendance/Participation (100 points): Each student is expected to do a roll call on the iPad provided by your instructor at the beginning of the class. Students who participate in activities and discussions during class will earn a total of six point twenty-five (6.25) points per week (a total of sixteen (16) weeks, not counting Unit Exam and Final Exam Days).
Discussions (100 points): Students are expected to read assigned chapters in the *Linguistics of American Sign Language: An Introduction* book with/or supplemental material(s) provided by your instructor and answer the questions provided in the Discussion assignments on Canvas. Students are expected to create a post with their answers to the questions by Thursday, 11:59 PM MST, then comment on two (2) of their peers' posts between Friday, 12:01 AM MST, to Sunday, 11:59 PM MST. There is a total of eight (8) discussions worth twelve point five (12.5) points each.
Unit Assignments (150 points): Students will demonstrate their comprehension skills learned from the *Linguistics of American Sign Language: An Introduction* book/video(s), supplemental material(s), and the lectures by completing assigned assignments. There is a total of eight (8) Unit assignments worth eighteen point seventy-five (18.75) points each.
Projects (150 points): Students will demonstrate their comprehension skills learned from the *Linguistics of American Sign Language: An Introduction* book/video(s), supplement material(s), discussions, and the lectures during the class sessions by submitting a project. There is a total of four (4) Projects worth thirty-seven point five (37.5) points each.
Exams (250 points): In this course, there are six (6) Parts that will be covered. Students will be tested on the comprehension of ASL linguistic portion. The students are responsible to obtain all cultural/grammatical provided in class sessions during lectures, discussions, assigned readings, and supplemental materials for the Exams. There are a total of four (4) Exams worth sixty-two point five (62.5) points each. Students will take the exams on Canvas.
Final Exam & Project (250 points): A cumulative Exam and Project will include assessing your comprehension skills based on readings, discussion, projects, linguistic notes including material provided in class sessions, assignments, and supplemental material(s). Each worth a hundred twenty-five (125) points.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
Valli, C., Lucas, C., Mulrooney, K.,
& Villanueva, M. (2011). Linguistics
of American Sign Language: An

Introduction. 5th Edition. Washington,
DC: Gallaudet University Press.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion
Study of language and linguistic principles.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI
Artificial Intelligence (AI): A note on the use of AI tools. The use of AI is not prohibited in itself. There are many beneficial uses, and you will do well to learn how to use AI tools effectively. Just keep in mind, that is not appropriate to have an AI Tool produce work that you submit as your own. It is appropriate to use AI tools to help you develop ideas, explore counter arguments, get feedback on areas your work might improve, and for many other uses.
If you find that you are using AI to help you learn (i.e., to take full advantage of your educational *opportunity*) rather than do work for you so you can turn something in (i.e., educational *obligation*), you are probably doing it right. When you see school as an opportunity rather than as an obligation, you open the door to the full benefits.

Using Remote Testing Software
☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities
Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*.

Equity and Title IX
Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation
UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.
To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a specially dedicated space for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.