



**College of Education and Human Development
Division of Special Education and disAbility Research**

Fall 2023

EDSE 315 001: American Sign Language (ASL) IV

CRN: 73360, 3 – Credits

Instructor: Kevin Taylor	Meeting Dates: 8/21/23 – 12/13/23
Phone: 571-723-4311	Meeting Day(s): Tuesday
E-Mail: ktaylo2@gmu.edu	Meeting Time(s): 10:30 am – 11:45 am
Office Hours: By Appointment	Meeting Location: Fairfax; HORIZN 4008
Office Location: Krug 103B	Other Phone: N/A

Note: This syllabus may change according to class needs. Teacher Candidates/Students will be advised of any changes immediately through George Mason e-mail and/or through Blackboard.

Prerequisite(s):

EDSE 219 or equivalent course with a minimum grade of “B”

Co-requisite(s):

None

Course Description

Focuses on strengthening expressive and receptive communication in American Sign Language (ASL) through the development of narrative and storytelling skills. Explores the importance of these skills within the Deaf Community. Explores issues of multiculturalism, linguistic code-switching, and language dominance, particularly in relationship to Deaf education.

Advising Contact Information

Please make sure that you are being advised on a regular basis as to your status and progress in your program. Students in Special Education and Assistive Technology programs can contact the Special Education Advising Office at 703-993-3670 or spced@gmu.edu for assistance. All other students should refer to their assigned program advisor or the Mason Care Network (703-993-2470).

Advising Tip

Are you planning to complete the ASL minor? Keep in mind that the minor requires at least 8 credits applied only to that minor and may not be used to fulfill requirements of your major, concentration, an undergraduate certificate, or another minor.

Course Delivery Method

Hybrid

Learning activities include the following:

1. Class lecture and discussion
2. Application activities
3. Small group activities and assignments
4. Video and other media supports
5. Research and presentation activities
6. Electronic supplements and activities via Blackboard

A percentage of this course will be delivered online using [select either a synchronous or an asynchronous] format via the Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on [Day and/or Time].

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see: [Browser support \(https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support\)](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support)
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
 - [Adobe Acrobat Reader: https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Windows Media Player: https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player)

- [Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

Expectations

- **Course Week:**
Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meetings take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.
- **Log-in Frequency:**
Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 2 times per week.
Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- **Technical Competence:**
Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- **Technical Issues:**
Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- **Workload:**
Please be aware that this course is not self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines and due dates* listed in the Class Schedule section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- **Instructor Support:**
Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- **Netiquette:**
The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- **Accommodations:**
Online learners who require effective accommodations to ensure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Service.

Learner Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop intermediate level proficiency ASL conversational skills and vocabulary to effectively communicate with members of the Deaf community in the United States (DH1S2, DH4S1, DH6K1, C1.1, C1.2, C1.3, C4.1).
2. Narrate “Unforgettable Moments” (C1.2, C1.3).
3. Explain driving and everyday rules (C1.2, C 1.3).
4. Narrate “Accidents” (C1.2, C1.3).
5. Demonstrate language skills for expressing ideas and concepts (C1.3)
6. Demonstrate skills for illustrating reasons and functions (C1.3)
7. Analyze use of grammar and syntax of ASL and English (C4.1).
8. Increase knowledge of cultural competency relative to the deaf community and
9. Demonstrate awareness of language and social issues alive in the Deaf community today (DH1K2, DH1S2, C2.1, C3.1).

Professional Standards

Goals, objectives, and assignments in this class address the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) skill standards and the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) competencies. Code for CEC Standards: DH = Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Code for ASLTA Standards: C1 = Communication, C2 = Culture, C3 = Connections, C4 = Comparisons, C5 = Communities.

Required Texts

Smith, C., Lentz, E., Mikos, K. (2003). *Signing naturally: Level 3 student set*. San Diego, CA: Dawn Sign Press

Recommended Texts

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

Required Resources

Sign up and register for Flip
<https://info.flip.com/en-us.html>

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, VIA, hard copy).

VIA Performance-Based Assessment Submission Requirement

There is no required performance-based assessment for this course.

Assignments and/or Examinations

Lessons and Assignments: Students will complete the weekly modules on **Blackboard**.

1. **Reading** – some assignments require you to read and find the answers in your textbook.

2. Lesson/Assignment Question Formats

- a. **Multiple Choice** – select an answer.
 - b. **Multiple Answers** – select more than one answer total points indicates how many answers.
 - i. **Multiple Answer: Which of the following pronouns would...** (Multiple answer question – 2 points = 2 answers) Points: 2
 - c. **True/False** - type the full word, not T/F.
 - d. **Jumbled Sentences** - pick an answer from the drop-down list.
 - e. **Matching** - select the correct answer that matches the information given.
 - f. **Fill in the Blank Questions**
 - i. **Numbers** – enter the number (2, 9, 12, etc.)
 - ii. **1-word answers** – most questions require 1-word answers
 - iii. **2 or 3-word answers** If you see (2-words) or (3-words) next to the question, enter the answer a space between the words.
 - iv. **Parenthesis** – pick an answer given in parenthesis
 - v. **Spelling** – will be deducted if not spelled correctly (use Google to double check your spelling)
 - vi. **Abbreviations** – are not allowed except for ASL
 - vii. **Capitalization** – is not required.
3. **Answer Key** – correct answers will be shown/available after the due dates.
 4. **My Grades Tab** – Check my grades tab in Blackboard for the assignment due dates.

Video Assignments: Students will complete video assignments using Flip links posted in the modules. Rubrics are posted on blackboard to be used as a guide.

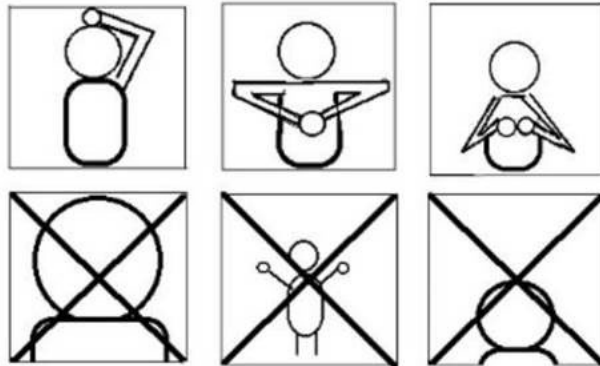
Note: For large classes, the instructor will assign students into two groups. An email will be sent with your assigned group and link.

1. GMU email address is required.
2. Use the link provided on Blackboard to sign up.
3. Instructions will be given on Blackboard and Flip.
4. Rubrics are posted on Blackboard with the Flip links.
5. Everyone will see each other's videos except for the Final Exam
6. Rephrasing – for some video assignments, students will be expected to rephrase what their classmate signed. Students will rephrase, **not copy** what is being signed.

Note: The purpose of this video is to **showcase the student's signing ability** and students will create either a **real or fake** situation on based on the required criteria. Utilize the vocabulary you have learned from the unit. Students will need to **rehearse** until they no longer need notes. Students are expected to look directly at the camera, can look away briefly at notes.

Editing ASL Videos: Students are required to edit their ASL videos.

1. Ensure the computer or tablet is on a firm surface (a desk or table). The video should remain stable – no movements.
2. Make sure the video is centered and visible where the instructor can see the top of the student’s head and the bottom of the student’s chest area as shown below.



3. If students use their phone, follow the format below:



4. Make sure eyes are facing the camera, not looking to the side, above or below. Brief glances are acceptable for notes.
5. Make sure that the background is clean (one-colored wall) and free of “visual noise” (people, books, television, animals appearing, etc.).
6. The color of the student’s shirt should contrast their skin tone. Avoid red, yellow, and orange shades. If students have tattoos on their arms, they should wear long-sleeved shirts. Tank tops and string shirts are not allowed.
7. Remove hats and excessive jewelry. Wedding rings and small earrings are ok.
8. All videos must be submitted on Flip as one. Multiple edited/short clips is not allowed.
9. Review the quality of the videos before submitting.

Deaf Events: Students will attend **two (2)** Deaf events. Students can find events using the websites below detailing location, type, and time of events.

Here are some websites students can check to find upcoming events:

Fairfax ASL Social:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/aslclub2015/>

ASL Bridge:

<https://www.meetup.com/ASLBridge/>

Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons (click on community events calendar):

<https://nvrc.org/news/>

Gallaudet University:

<https://my.gallaudet.edu/calendar>

ASL Trivia (must be 21+ to participate):

<https://www.facebook.com/ASLTriviaDC/>

Another option is to Google the following – Silent Dinner in (city, VA), Silent Supper in (city, VA), or Deaf Event in (city, VA).

The following do not count as a Deaf event:

- Church settings
- Deaf plays
- Interpreted events
- Captioned movies

The purpose of this event is for students to practice their signing skills.

For the event, students will write a paper detailing their experience. The paper should be one page, double spaced. Include a comprehensive answer to each question below.

1. Name of the Deaf Community Event
2. When the event occurred
3. The purpose of the event
4. Describe the people who attended.
5. What observations were made?
6. Describe the feelings evoked.
7. Thoughts and feeling toward this event (before and after)
8. What was learned from this experience?
9. Describe any differences between a hearing event and a Deaf event.
10. Other keen observations, thoughts, or unanswered questions

It is the **student's responsibility** to find a Deaf event to attend. If you do not meet the requirements above, the assignment will result in a zero. The due date is shown on the schedule below.

Class Project: ASL Event Hosting

This assignment requires all students in class participate and attend. Each student will receive the same grade.

As a class, students will be hosting an ASL event.

Students will need to do the following:

1. Select a date and a timeframe.
2. Select a place. (It would be prudent to ask the establishment permission to host such an event and to inform them of when the event will be held.) Students will need to find a Deaf-friendly place with open space so everyone can see each other.
3. Create an event invitation in social media such as Facebook or Instagram.
4. Invite members of the Deaf communities and ASL students.

On the day of the event, be sure to:

1. Socialize with Deaf people.
2. Go around the room and acknowledge people. (Chat with other ASL students)
3. Help those who are struggling with understanding ASL or who are shy.

Note: Students who do not participate in the activity will receive a zero for the assignment.

Unit Presentations: Students will give a presentation to the class for each Unit (18, 20 & 21). Signs should be clear and formed correctly, signed in a fluent manner and accompanied by appropriate facial grammar and spatial references, eye gazes, topicalization, appropriate pauses for both individual signs and ASL sentences. Rubrics will be posted in Blackboard.

Student Evaluations of Teaching:

The student evaluation of teaching, or SET, is an online course survey. You are strongly encouraged to complete this form for each course as this feedback helps instructors and administrators improve your class experiences. Towards the end of the course, you will receive email and Blackboard notifications when the evaluations open. Your anonymous and confidential feedback is only shared with instructors after final grades have been submitted. More information about the SET can be found on The Institute of Effectiveness and Planning website at <https://oiep.gmu.edu/set/>

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance/Participation

It is expected that students will attend each class on time.

Students will be allowed two (2) absences without penalty. Each absence afterwards will result in a 5% deduction from the total grade as shown below:

First Absence – no penalty

Second Absence – no penalty

Third Absence – 5% deduction of the final grade

Fourth Absence – 5% deduction of the final grade

Fifth Absence – 5% deduction of the final grade

Sixth Absence – Withdraw or fail the course depending on the date.

Note: The following are additional rules that will be applied to the attendance policy:

1. Two (2) late arrivals will be equivalent to one (1) absence which will be applied to the policy stated above.
2. If a student arrives more than 30 minutes late, it will count as one (1) absence. For excused absences beyond the (2) given, students would need to get a letter from Disability Services for any mental or physical health related issues.

Late Work

Any papers, videos, or assignments **will not** be accepted past due dates.

Note: Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.

— What does 'accommodations are not retroactive' mean?

Once a student meets and establishes accommodations with a specialist, accommodations will be applicable moving forward from the time Faculty Contact Sheets are provided to professors. Accommodations are not applicable prior to the initial meeting.

Other Requirements

No Voicing Policy: To enhance students' language acquisition of ASL, a “no voicing” setting will be enforced. Respect the instructor and classmates by refraining from voicing or interpreting for others. If students do not understand the instructor or classmates (or missed a portion of information), please ask the instructor for clarification. Students can ask a classmate by using signs or writing back and forth.

Students are expected to cease voicing the moment they walk into the classroom until the moment they exit the classroom. Students are also expected to continue signing until the instructor has left the room after the class session. It is expected that students will practice ASL with classmates during times they are in the classroom and the instructor is not present.

If voicing becomes a persistent problem, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class for the day; this will count as an absence for the day.

Graduation Requirements: Students are responsible for completing course work that demonstrates the level of competence satisfying the foreign language requirements for graduation.

Grading

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percent Grade
A+	97-100
A	94-96
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	81-83
C+	79-80
C	76-78
C-	74-75
D	70-73
F	Below 70

Grade Distribution:

Assignments/Deaf Events	35%
Video Assignments (Flip)	35%
Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
Unit Presentations	20%

Note: Students' grades will be based on **percentage** for each area as shown above. (Not **total points**)

Note: Grading Scale - Students needs **76%(C) or better** to meet the prerequisites for ASL IV (EDSE 315).

***Note:** The George Mason University Honor Code will be strictly enforced. See [Academic Integrity Site](https://oai.gmu.edu/) (<https://oai.gmu.edu/>) and [Honor Code and System](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>). Students are responsible for reading and understanding the Code. "To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work." Work submitted must be your own new, original work for this course or with proper citations.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. See [Policies and Procedures](https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/) (<https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>).

Class Schedule

***Note:** Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

Class Meetings

10:30-11:45 am

August 22
August 29
September 5
September 12
September 19
September 26
October 3
October 17
October 24
October 31
November 7
November 14
November 28
December 5

Modules: Due on **Mondays at 11:59 pm**. Check Blackboard for more information.

Coursework	Day	Submitted by
Module 1	August 28	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 2	September 4	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 3	September 11	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 4	September 18	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 5	September 25	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 6	October 2	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 7	October 9	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 8	October 16	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 9	October 23	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 10	October 30	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 11	November 6	11:59 pm (EST)
Module 12	November 13	11:59 pm (EST)
Final Exam	November 28	One-on-One
Final Exam	December 5	One-on-One

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: See [Core Values](http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/) (<http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>).

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code. See [Honor Code and System](https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/) (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See

[Responsible Use of Computing](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/) (<http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).

- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor. See [Disability Services](https://ds.gmu.edu/) (<https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments>.
- Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to [Blackboard Instructional Technology Support for Students](https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/) (<https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>).
- [Learning Services](mailto:learningservices@gmu.edu) (learningservices@gmu.edu) - Provides a variety of experience-based learning opportunities through which students explore a wide range of academic concerns. Services include support to students with learning differences, individual study strategy coaching, individualized programs of study, and referrals to tutoring resources. Presentations on a variety of academic topics such as time management, reading, and note taking are available to the university community. The programs are open to all George Mason University students free of charge.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per [University Policy 1202](#). If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as the [Student Support and Advocacy Center \(SSAC\)](#) at 703-380-1434 or [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website [College of Education and Human Development](http://cehd.gmu.edu/) (<http://cehd.gmu.edu/>).

Appendix

Assessment Rubric(s)

	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	DOES NOT MEET EXPECTATIONS
Vocabulary: Usage of vocabulary	Accurate, relevant use of wide variety of vocabulary used from all units studied (2)	Generally accurate, relevant use of vocabulary from more than half the units studied (1)	Vocabulary inaccurate and used covers less than half the units studied
Formation: Handshape, Palm Orientation, Movement, Location	Skilled, accurate, appropriate use of hand shape, orientation, location and movement; transitions smooth (2)	Generally accurate, appropriate use; errors made do not compromise meaning (1)	Less than 50% accurate, appropriate use; errors compromise meaning; effort and practice not evident
Space Referents: Motion/Location of Verbs (includes eye gaze, body shifting and choice of signs)	Use is consistently accurate and appropriate; use precisely expresses intended meaning (2)	Use is generally accurate and appropriate; errors do not compromise the intended meaning; good effort (1)	Use is either not present or awkward; interferes with intended meaning; effort and practice not evident
Grammar: Yes/No Questions “Wh-word” Questions Location Negation Contrastive Structures (referents, time, intensity, etc.)	A variety of sentence types are used; solid knowledge of grammar is evident (2)	A variety of sentence types are used; errors do not compromise meaning; use demonstrates effort and thought (1)	Use is awkward and confusing; errors compromise meaning; effort and practice not evident
Fluency/Accuracy Smoothness and Fluency of Signs Conceptually Accurate Ideas/Messages	Use is consistently accurate and appropriate; use precisely expresses intended meaning (2)	Use is generally accurate and appropriate; errors do not compromise the intended meaning; good effort (1)	Use is either not present or awkward; sometimes interferes with intended meaning; effort and practice not evident
Total Points Possible = 10	Points earned in parenthesis	Points earned in parenthesis	No points earned