



Niswonger Online Course Syllabus

ASL I



Instructor Information

Name: Professor Stephanie Horvath

Email: shorvath@niswongerfoundation.org

Students Office Hours: I am available from 10a.m to 12:30p.m on Tuesdays/Thursdays.

Please email me for an appointment via Tuesdays/Thursdays and we will meet through Zoom. I will reply within 24 hours. Within our agreement of confirmed date, you will receive a google calendar invitation with a zoom link.

Required Texts/Materials:

1. *TRUE+WAY ASL e-Workbook Unit 1-3. 3rd Edition*
2. computer and webcam
3. access to high speed internet

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.



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Course Rationale

The purpose of this course is designed to help you develop the study skills you need to learn a 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. 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.

Assistance

If you have course related questions such as questions about due dates, assignment directions, lesson material, etc. please contact your instructor immediately via Canvas message.

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with your account please visit <https://niswongeronline.com/questions/> to submit a trouble ticket or contact:

Mr. Chris Dotson

Technology Support Lead, Niswonger Online

cdotson@niswongerfoundation.org

You can also visit this page for answers to frequently asked questions:

<https://niswongeronline.com/student-help-resources/>

For any other concerns that have not been addressed by your teacher or by our Technology Support Team please contact:

Mrs. Jill Davis

Assistant Director, Niswonger Online

jdavis@niswongerfoundation.org

Mrs. Gina Pavlovich

Director, Niswonger Online

gpavlovich@niswongerfoundation.org



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Course Outline

Unit 1 Welcome to the Deaf World!

Unit 2 Academics

Unit 3 Family and Relationship

Technical Requirement/Consideration

To succeed in this course, students are expected to be able to effectively and efficiently use a personal computer for word processing, regular correspondence via niswonger foundation email, and searches of the internet.. Students need to be able to videotape themselves and upload work through Canvas Studio. Students need to be able to use a computer to view videos related to the subject matter.

Grading Policy

ASL 1 Course Grading System :_Your comprehension and production skills will be evaluated regularly. You will also be evaluated on your preparation for class activities and your assignments outside of the class. Your grade in this course will be determined based on a point system. Each activity, assignment, and quiz are assigned a point value. Keep track of your points on each assignment

Your comprehension and production skills will be evaluated regularly. You will also be evaluated on your preparation for class activities and your assignments outside of the class. Please keep a record of your grade.

1. TRUE+WAY ASL (TWA) e-Workbook assignments **10%**

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.

2. TWA "SOAR" video assignments **10%**



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

3. Quizzes **20%**:

Some quizzes will be announced in class 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 ASL* e-workbook/video, video assignments, vocabulary, and class discussions.

4. Unit Tests: Comprehension & Production **30%**

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 comprehension and production skills. There will be no make-up of the tests except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique.

5. Final Exam: Production **30%**

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.

Niswonger Online Late Work Policy

It is essential that all students complete their assigned work in a timely manner. For this reason, all assignments from the first half of the semester will close on the following dates:

Spring Semester: April 1

Students will not be able to access these assignments after this deadline has passed.

ASL I Late Work Policy

I will not accept late work for video assignments This is due to the fact that they take longer to grade and I need them submitted on time to get grades returned in a timely manner. **If you have**



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a medical note that is provided by your healthcare provider then I may provide an extension that allows you to turn in within 48 hours.

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—late work will only be accepted with a compelling reason and instructor approval. Late work may also be subject to a reduction in the grade for that specific work by 10%. If you know of a reason that you cannot meet a deadline, please let me know as soon as possible. For example, you will be on a trip and may not have internet access. I need to know before the due date – NOT after the due date. It is your responsibility to let me know ahead of time. I will do my best to accommodate your circumstances.

Viewing Grades in Canvas

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to your Canvas Grade Book. Click on the Grades link on the left navigation to view your grades and feedback.

I will update the online grades each time a due date has passed. Check back for updated grades and feedback **3-4 days** after submission.

Course Policies

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course, you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism and integrity.

Cheating is “the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.”

Plagiarism is “the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.”

Niswonger Online Plagiarism Policy

All students will be asked to read the Niswonger Online plagiarism policy and complete an assignment to show understanding BEFORE any work in the course can be accessed or completed. The plagiarism policy and corresponding assignment is linked in the second module, labeled Academic Integrity, within each course. Go to niswongeronline.com to view the plagiarism policy without logging into the course.



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Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let me know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing me when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Complete Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. If you have any trouble submitting your assignment in Canvas you should contact your teacher or the Niswonger Online Technology team immediately.

Assignments and submission guidelines

True + Way ASL (TWA) e-Workbook Assignment: This workbook is designed to retain and reinforce what is learned in the classroom. Complete the assigned workbook assignment by assigned due dates. Late assignment **will not be accepted** without medical (note from health care provider) or technical documentation.

TWA "Snapshots" Viewing Assignment: TWA snapshots is the place where you will view informative deaf culture, structure, linguistics, and topics. The snapshots will give you the background to prepare you for your class and assignments.

TWA Peer Observation Assessment (POA): TWA POA will have signed videos where you will need to discuss and analyze why it is wrong. This will allow you to become a reflective language learner. This needs to be done before your SOAR and tests.

TWA e-Workbook worksheets: These are the ASL virtual assignments that need to be done outside of your classroom to help you to prepare for your upcoming SOAR assignments and tests. No late assignments are accepted unless you have a medical note from your healthcare provider to receive an extension from your professors.

TWA "Conversation Starter & question": this part is where you can watch my lecture. Please look at your conversation starter discussion board with questions. You will sign your response in the **Canvas Discussion Board**. You will be assigned to a group of 4.



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You will need to respond to at least two peers, but you are encouraged to interact with others if you find their posts helpful for you. You will need to post your work before you can respond to your peers' work. It is designed for you to post videos where you and your classmates can interact with each other. Please post and respond to at least two peers in your class.

TWA "SOAR" Video Assignment: The Self Observation Assessment Review (SOAR) videos at the end of each unit on *TRUE+WAY ASL* e-Workbook website. **You are to record your work via Canvas and submit your individual video by the assigned due date.** Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have a medical note from a health care provider to receive an extension from the professor.

TWA Quizzes: 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 ASL* e-workbook/video, video assignments, vocabulary, and class discussions. You may not make up any quizzes you miss – if you miss the quiz, you will get a zero. **Quizzes are done through the TWA website by the assigned due date and will be timed.**

TWA Unit Test: Comprehension & Production: Unit tests will cover all materials presented to that point of that class. They will include information from quizzes, True + Way ASL (TWA), class notes, handouts, lectures, vocabulary, videos, as well as your comprehension and production skills. There will be no make-up of the tests except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique. **Unit Tests are done through the TWA website by the assigned due date and will be timed.**

ASL 1 Final Exam- This will be based on your ASL 1 where it covers from Unit 3. There will be **no make-up** of the final exam except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique.

ASL 1 Conversation Starter Discussion Board Post Expectations

- Your responses should be respectful and relevant. Remember, discussions are meant for you to explore the values of others which may differ from your own.
- You will need to post a thread before you respond to others.



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- Pose any outstanding questions you still have after completing the reading response.
- Respond to your peers' questions regarding the readings.
- It is your responsibility to respond to classmates who do not yet have any comments.
- Your responses should be well thought out and enhance the understanding of all parties. A well-thought-out response is not "I totally agree with you," or "I have never thought of that before."
- To receive full credit, you will need to respond to at least two peers.

Netiquette Rules for Discussion and Emails

Adapted from *Core Rules of "Netiquette"* by Virginia Shea

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

- Rule 1: Remember that behind every post is a person. Treat your peers and professor with respect.
- Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you would in person. Be courteous and use your manners.
- Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace. You are a University student completing an assignment for an academic class. Act accordingly.
- Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth. Use your discussion posts to meet the course objectives.
- Rule 5: Make yourself look good online. Your first impression is what you type.
- Rule 6: Share expert knowledge. Don't be afraid to share something you know a lot about.
- Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control. If an emotional reaction arises, do not judge or perpetuate the outburst. Move on.
- Rule 8: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes. If someone's post seems rude, try to let it go. It may be the case of "lost in translation" that sometimes occurs with online interaction. Give them the benefit of the doubt.

Course Enrollment and Drop

Students can only be enrolled in a Niswonger Online course by their home high school's counselor or administrator. Enrollment changes will only be approved by these school personnel. Online teachers, the director, or assistant director cannot approve any course changes. Each school has its own policy on when a student may drop their online course. Please see your school counselor or administrator if you have any questions about this.



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Tentative Course Schedule*

*The course schedule may be impacted by inclement weather so please monitor your email and announcements.

All of your assignments are due around every two-three weeks depending on lessons. **Each week is there to help you with your pace, but you can work your way up until your due dates.** I encourage you to view lectures each week so you are able to build your signing skills well. **Assignments/Quizzes are due on Sundays by 3:00p.m.** Please monitor your course due dates

Your main deadlines to turn in all of your assignments and complete your quizzes by 3:00p.m on those following dates:

- **January 30, 2022**
- **February 20, 2022**
- **March 13, 2022**
- **April 3, 2022**
- **May 8, 2022**

| <i>Week</i> | <i>Unit</i> |
|-------------|--|
| 1 | January 10-16, 2022 Read Syllabus Course Schedule Introduction View teacher's lecture re: ASL Alphabet & ASL Parameters |
| 2 | January 17-23, 2022 Unit 1.1 DO 1.1 Conversational Starter DB in your assigned group |
| 3 | January 24-30, 2022 Unit 1.2 Do 1.2 Conversational Starter DB in your assigned group Unit 1.1 & 1.2 are due by January 30, 2022 by 3:00p.m |



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| 4 | <p>January 31-February 6, 2022</p> <p>Unit 1.3 Do 1.3 Conversational Starter DB in your assigned group</p> |
| 5 | <p>February 7-13, 2022</p> <p>Unit 1.4 Do 1.4 Conversational Starter DB in your assigned group</p> |
| 6 | <p>February 14-20th, 2022</p> <p>Unit 1.5 Do 1.5 Conversation Starter Discussion Board in your assigned group</p> <p>Your 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5 are due by February 20, 2021 by 3:00p.m</p> |
| 7 | <p>February 21-27th, 2022</p> <p>Unit 1 SOAR Unit 1 Tests</p> |
| 8 | <p>February 28-March 6th, 2022</p> <p>Unit 2.1 Do 2.1 Conversational Starter Discussion Board in your assigned group</p> |
| 9 | <p>March 7-13th, 2022</p> <p>Unit 2.2 & 2.3 Do 2.2 & 2.3 Conversational Starter Discussion Board in your assigned group</p> <p>Your 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 due on March 13, 2022 by 3:00p.m</p> |
| 10 | <p>March 14-20th, 2022</p> <p>Spring break :) no classes</p> |
| 11 | <p>March 21-27, 2022</p> <p>Unit 2.4 Do 2.4 Conversational Starter Discussion Board in your assigned group</p> |



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| 12 | <p>March 28-April 3, 2022</p> <p>Unit 2.5 Do 2.5 Conversational Starter Discussion Board in your assigned group</p> <p>Your 2.4 & 2.5 are due on April 3,2022 by 3:00p.m</p> |
| 13 | <p>April 4-10, 2022</p> <p>Unit 2 SOAR Unit 2 tests</p> |
| 14 | <p>April 11-17, 2022</p> <p>Unit 3.1 Do 3.1 Conversational Starter Discussion Board in your assigned group</p> |
| 15 | <p>April 18-24, 2022</p> <p>Unit 3.2 Do 3.2 Conversational Starter Discussion Board in your assigned group</p> <p>Your 3.1 & 3.2 are due on April 24, 2022 by 3:00p.m</p> |
| 16 | <p>April 25-May 1, 2022</p> <p>Unit 3.3 Do 3.3 Conversational Starter Discussion Board in your assigned your group</p> |
| 17 | <p>May 2-8, 2021</p> <p>Unit 3.4 Do 3.4 Conversational Starter Discussion Board in your assigned</p> <p>Your 3.3 & 3.4 are due on May 8, 2022 by 3:00pm</p> |



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| 18 | <p>May 9-13, 2021</p> <p>Unit 3 SOAR Unit 3 final exam (production and comprehension)</p> <p>Your Final Exam is on May 13, 2021 by 4:00p.m (your last day)</p> |
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