

Deaf Culture in America

ASL 302 (3 credit hours)

Online Course

Professor: Holly Bryant

Email: holly.bryant@wku.edu

Office: All office hours will be conducted via online. There will be a list of ways you can contact me posted to our Blackboard. Please feel free to use them throughout the semester.

Office hours:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:30am-1:30pm	9:00am-11:00am	10:30am-1:30pm	9:00am-11:00am	By appointment

Textbooks Required:

Holcomb, T. K. (2013). *Introduction to American Deaf Culture*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press. (ISBN 978-0-19-977794-9)

Moore, M. and Levitan, L. (2016). *For Hearing People Only*. 4th Edition. New York. Deaf Life. (ISBN 0970587600)

Course Description:

This course examines various dimensions of Deaf culture in the United States, i.e., characteristics, norms and practices, diversity within the Deaf community, political impact of the Deaf, technology, and Deaf institutions. Comparisons between American Deaf culture and American mainstream cultures will increase understanding, respect and acceptance.

Instructional Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- I. Students will be able to recognize cultural differences between the Deaf and non-Deaf communities within the United States.
- II. Students will learn about socio-economic and geographic factors and how they impact members of the Deaf Community
- III. Students will be able to evaluate interactions, in workplace, society, healthcare, and news outlets.
- IV. Show awareness of and respect for Deaf Culture.
- V. Will learn the ABCs and basic signs for introductions in the Deaf community
- VI. Demonstrate knowledge of interpreting resources and professions within the community
- VII. Understand controversial topics such as Deaf education and Cochlear Implants

Attendance

This is an online class so there is not a face to face attendance policy. However, Western Kentucky University attendance policy states that “registration in a course obligates the student to

be regular and punctual in class attendance” (2015, WKU Catalog), therefore you are expected to participate weekly and complete all assignments in a timely manner.

Methods of Evaluation

1) **Participation in weekly Blackboard Discussion (30%):**

Each week there will be a Blackboard discussion posted that covers the materials assigned. You will be responsible for posting each week, as well as commenting on other student’s posts. Your post must contain at least one reference from the reading with a page number citation.

Your post will be due by Friday at 11:57pm.

Your response to someone in the class will be due by Sunday at 11:57pm.

Your weekly participation grade will be split between your post and your response.

Therefore, it is very important that you make sure you post both.

2) **Blackboard Quizzes (10%):**

You will have periodic Blackboard quizzes. These quizzes will be timed and consist of multiple choice and fill in the blank answers. You will have one attempt per quiz.

3) **Midterm Research Paper (20%):**

You will submit a research paper in APA format, including 3 scholarly references and a works cited page. The paper will be an extensive cumulative review and explanation of a person, place, or event that was important in Deaf history. You will pick the topic then get approval from your instructor. Your paper (with resources) will be submitted via Blackboard. More information will be discussed in class.

4) **Final Project (40%):**

The final project will be a hands-on learning experience that will require you to attend at least one **approved** event that represents and immerses you into Deaf Culture. (There will be events available via Zoom.) Your instructor will post approved options throughout the semester. These events will be primarily completed in American Sign Language. At the end of the semester, you will create an 8-10mins presentation that will contain a slide for each of the topics discussed throughout the class as well as you signing a small script in ASL. Your final project will utilize zoom (or an equivalent platform) to screenshare your powerpoint while you record yourself “presenting” each slide. Your instructor will post an example of the desired format on Blackboard.

You will be assessed by the rubric posted in Blackboard.

The rules for the event are listed below.

- a. You are required to stay at the approved ASL event for a one hour minimum.
- b. You will be **“voice-off”** at this event. (This means no talking.)
- c. You will choose an event from the approved list provided by the instructor. This list will be on Blackboard.
 - i. Once at the event, you must sign in **and out** of the event.
 - ii. You will observe the cultural differences at this event. You must attempt to communicate in the demonstrated languages being used. Failure to follow appropriate cultural norms, which were discussed in class, will result in the disqualification of this event.

- iii. Take note of any new signs or cultural experiences learned.
- d. You will compile observations and knowledge from the event (and class) and will utilize it to complete your presentation.

***Failure to complete the final project will
result in a failing grade ('F') in the class for the semester.***

COURSE GRADES

Percentage Breakdown:

Final Project	40%
Weekly Discussion Boards	30%
Midterm Research Paper	20%
Quizzes	10%

Grade Scale:

A=	100%-90%
B=	89%-80%
C=	79%-70%
D=	69%-60%
F=	59%-Below

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Professor's Policies:

Communication with Professor

Open communication with your professor is VERY important!! If you are stressed about this course, feel behind, concerned about your grades or have other issues that will affect your success, it is STRONGLY recommended to talk/email with your professor as soon as possible. Please utilize any/all means of communication listed on the first page of your syllabus- that's why it's there. The instructor is willing to work hard to help you be successful but you have to do the same and that starts with communication!

Respect

This class will contain some content that may elicit strong opinions or emotions. I expect everyone to treat one another with respect and the courtesy they would desire. If a student becomes disrespectful, they will be contacted by the professor to discuss the discrepancy and the student will lose points on the assignment.

Late Assignments

All assignments are due on the designated due dates. Everything must be submitted in the format it was assigned. If an assignment is posted past a deadline, it will not be graded. **Assignments may not be emailed to your professor.**

Audit/Withdrawal Policy

Requests to audit/withdraw for other than extenuating circumstances *after the deadline* will NOT be approved. Poor academic performance is NOT an extenuating circumstance. Please plan ahead and contact me beforehand if you have any concerns.

Academic Dishonesty

Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, using work that is not their own) will receive an “F” for this course. There will not be an option to Withdraw from the course or to make up any assignments.

University Policies:

Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy and Discrimination and Harassment Policy

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU’s Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

ADA Statement

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, it is the student’s responsibility to contact their professor concerning any special accommodations. If you need any special assistance and have filled out all the paperwork through Western Kentucky University’s Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC), please see the instructor so your needs can be accommodated. If you need to contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center, please call (270) 745-5004/voice (270)745-3030/TTY or go to DSU A-200. Please do not request accommodations without the proper ADA paperwork.

COVID-19 University Mask Policy

Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with the [CDC guidelines](#), the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations to face coverings must be determined by the Student Accessibility Resource Center and documented before a student may attend class.