

# Harding University

## American Sign Language I

ASL 2750.01 Tuesdays/Thursdays 4:00-5:15 p.m.

## Spring 2025 Syllabus

**Course Title:** ASL I 2750.01 American Sign Language

**Term:** Spring semester, January 14-May 9, 2025

**Class days/Time/Location:** 4:00-5:15 p.m. Swaid 214

**Course Time Zone:** CDT/CST\*

\*All due dates follow the school time zone, which is CDT/CST

**Course Adjunct Instructor:** Shelby A. Fortenberry, NAD IV, Reg. LASC, Adjunct

\*(318) 680.3054 cell (voice/text) [sfortenberry@harding.edu](mailto:sfortenberry@harding.edu)

**\*Course Policy for Communication:** Canvas Announcements are utilized as a primary means of communication with students as a class. Communication is key! If announcements are made via Canvas, please "like" or post "seen". Correspondences between the instructor and individual students will be sent through Harding email accounts. Students should expect a reply within 24 hours during the week. For any emails sent over the weekend, students should expect a response by Monday by the end of the business day. If there is an immediate need for a quick response, the instructor's cell via text. *Students should weigh heavily, before choosing to text the instructor.* The preferred format for virtual meetings is through Zoom.

**Office Hours:** Remote office. Appointments are scheduled upon the student and instructor's schedule.

**Course Scripture:** "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Cor. 9:8

**Course Description:** This course introduces the basic skills in developing production and comprehension skills in American Sign Language (ASL). Students will learn ASL vocabulary, structure, and grammar. Course content also includes the manual alphabet and numbers. Students will develop basic conversational abilities, and culturally appropriate behaviors, and learn about the culture and history of Deaf communities.

**Course Dynamics:** ASL I 2750.01 students are to attend class in Swaid 214 each time class is scheduled; the professor will instruct via Zoom. The instructor, on occasion, instructs on-site. American Sign Language is a **visual language and is very interactive**. Students will not be permitted to Zoom from a different location outside of class.

**Course Language:** American Sign Language (with some English supporting documents & readings).

**Course Credit Hours:** Three (3) semester hours. For every semester hour of credit, a typical student should expect to spend three (3) hours per week on course-related material outside the regularly scheduled meeting times.

**Required Texts/Materials:**

1. Purple Moontower LLC. (2021). True+Way ASL. (3rd Edition). You can obtain your access code through the Harding University Bookstore. **Please have your "book" by Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and keep the code.**
2. Resources posted in Canvas, Harding's learning management system (LMS)
3. Laptop or tablet with camera and internet access.
4. Access to social media platforms (FB, IG, YouTube).
5. \*earpiece or airpods. Headphones are not permitted in class.

**\*Course Level Outcome:**

*At the end of this course, the students should be able to do the following:*

**1. Vocabulary Development**

- a. Recognize and produce vocabulary items in each unit.
- b. Demonstrate comprehensive mastery of targeted vocabulary words learned from class items, lectures, and videos.

**2. Grammatical Features**

- a. Demonstrate comprehensive mastery of target, content-specific commands, questions, and statements in ASL.
- b. Identify grammatical features within short dialogues in ASL directed by the instructor.

**3. Conversational and Communication Skills**

- a. Demonstrate comprehension and conversation-facilitating behaviors.
- b. Demonstrate comprehension and production of regulating behaviors (i.e. attention-getting techniques, turn-taking signals, and others)
- c. Comprehend short narratives and stories in ASL signed by the professor, Deaf ASL speakers, or ASL videos added by the professor.
- d. Demonstrate the ability to create, conduct, and terminate a short content-specific conversation.

**4. Cultural Awareness**

- a. Analyze and critique competing perspectives of diverse Deaf Communities in the United States and Canada, ideas, aesthetic traditions, and cultural practices, and its history.
- b. Compare, contrast, and interpret differences and commonalities among Deaf and hearing cultures.

**Course Outline:**

Unit 1 Welcome to the Deaf World!

Unit 2 Academics

Unit 3 Family and Relationships

Unit 4 Residences and Communities

*\*\* Detailed course schedule including assignment due dates will be available in the course Canvas calendar. The instructor has the right to change any content of the syllabus in the event of extenuating circumstances. Any changes will be communicated to the class and posted in the Canvas calendar.*

**Evaluation and Assessment:** Assessment of the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of each student to assign a letter grade after this course is based on performance on four (4) unit examinations (Comprehension & Production), ten (10) Snapshot quizzes, twenty (20) worksheets, ten (10) comprehension quizzes, along with student's participation and attendance. Unit 4 Production will be the final.

**Examinations:** A total of 4 (four) Unit examinations are given in this course. Each unit test consists of 2 parts, a comprehension portion and a production portion. Sixty (60) points for comprehension, and forty (40) points for production totaling one hundred (100) points for each Unit test. All examinations are cumulative because language skills build across the course. Unit Comprehension tests may be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, matching, or short answer. All Unit Comprehension tests are taken in the testing lab unless accommodations need to be made.\* The production portion of the Unit test must be recorded in a secure and quiet location. Students must record their surroundings before performing the production test. Students upload the production video into Canvas, along with a typed ASL sentence structure. Each Unit production video submission must be continuous. Spliced videos are not accepted.

*\*In the event that the Unit Comprehension test is given in class, please be prepared to bring your laptop equipped to have good connectivity.*

*Materials brought to class during an examination must be secured in bags or backpacks and placed under the table. Hats may not be worn during examinations. Devices capable of recording or transmitting messages or digital media (e.g., phones, iPods, smart watches, etc.) are prohibited. If any of these devices is found on a student during an examination, the student will automatically receive a zero for that examination.*

**Unit 1-4 Exams**

Information covered on each exam will be as follows:

Exam 1 Units 1.1 through 1.5

Exam 2 Units 2.1 through 2.5

Exam 3 Units 3.1 through 3.4

Exam 4 Units 4.1 through 4.4

## **Assignments:**

***Unit Comprehension & Production tests, assignments, and quizzes given are to be completed independently without consultation from other students and without outside online sources.***

**Conversation Starters** Nine (9) Conversation Starters valuing 5 points each are given throughout the semester. Students are required to answer 1 of the following questions for each assignment.

**Snapshot Quizzes:** There are ten (10) Snapshot quizzes, valuing 136 points to assess understanding of assigned Snapshot videos. Though these quizzes are "open-book", they are to be completed independently without consultation from other students or outside sources. The Snapshot quizzes will be submitted electronically through Canvas. The due dates for the Snapshot quizzes are indicated in the syllabus and the Canvas course.

**Comprehension Quizzes:** There are ten (10) comprehension quizzes valuing 142 points administered for credit in this course. Each comprehension quiz assesses students' understanding of the application of ASL mechanics application. Each quiz is submitted via Canvas.

**Worksheets:** There are twenty (20) Worksheets assigned throughout the semester, valuing 176 points. Students are permitted to refer back to the current lesson or snapshots. The due dates for the worksheets are posted via Canvas.

## **Final Exam**

The final exam is an ASL performance exam. The final may be a video submission or in-person performance (TBA). If video submission is announced, the student's performance should be a minimum of two (2) two minute thirty (30) seconds and a maximum of three (3) minutes. Video uploads should be one (1) continuous video, spliced videos will not be accepted. The final exam consists of typed ASL sentence structure of the sentences performed and the video.. Students must incorporate cumulative concepts, grammar, and vocabulary learned in class.

**The final course grade calculation will be made as follows:**

**Quantity Assignment Total Points**

1	Syllabus Compliance	1
33	Participation Grade	100
4	Unit Exams-Comprehension & Production	360
10	Snapshot Quizzes	136
10	Comprehension Quizzes	142
20	Worksheets	176
9	Conversation Starter	45
1	Final ASL Production	40

**Total points 1,000**

**Grading Schedule:**

A- 90-100% B- 80-89%

C- 70-79% D- 60-69%

F- 59 and below

**Participation Grade:** Student participation may include, but is not limited to attendance, attentiveness, responsiveness, and respectfulness to professor and other classmates.

Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of each class. Students are given 1 "Ferris Bueller Day" (no questions asked) absence. Please notify the professor before taking the absence. Any unexcused absences beyond FBD may each result in a 5-point deduction of points from the final course grade. Students are responsible for all course material missed during excused and unexcused absences; assignments missed for unexcused absences will receive a grade of zero and may not be made up. Please notify the professor if there are special circumstances that need to be taken into consideration.

There is a zero-tolerance policy for cell phone usage during class. Students suspected or seen using phones during class will be marked absent for the day. No questions asked.

Multitasking on other assignments while in class is viewed as inattentive and will result in a 0 for the day.

**Tardiness:** Students arriving late 10 minutes to class, will be counted absent. Tardiness is disruptive to many and causes an atmosphere of confusion. If special circumstances arise, please notify the professor before being late.

**Deadlines/Late Policy: Every assignment has a deadline.** It is always wise to check the Canvas calendar regularly for assignment due dates and finish assignments earlier than later. Practice good time management skills. However, if there are extenuating circumstances, to take into consideration, please let the instructor know ASAP. Notification or request for an extended due date does not guarantee an extension, it is at the instructor's discretion. If an extension is granted, percentage points are deducted per day. No extensions are given for Unit testing or video productions.

**\*CLASSROOM NETIQUETTE:** Each student should be in their seat at the beginning of class, log into Zoom, and be ready to start. Each student should emulate Christ, honor Him in word and action, be respectful, and act professionally towards the professor and their classmates. Electronic devices should be turned off or in silent mode during class sessions. \*No headphones are permitted in class. Laptop computers or tablets should be brought to class regularly as quizzes and other activities may involve internet connectivity. ASL requires visual language, so students must be attentive and watch for communication during class. **Hats will not be permitted.** Do not attempt to "multi-task" while on your computer. If students are caught "surfing" or working on other assignments, it will be counted as an unexcused absence. To be present, you need to be entirely present. Eating in class, or gum chewing will not be permitted. All conversations in class must be communicated, voiced, or signed. A student failing to meet the expectation of standard classroom behavior will be asked to leave class.

**Changes to Syllabus Notice:** The instructor reserves the right to modify and update any part of the syllabus where necessary. Changes made will be for your perceived benefit and will be communicated in Canvas by the instructor. It is your responsibility to stay up to date with any changes made by the instructor.

**Harding University Mission:** "Harding's mission is to provide a quality education that will lead to an understanding and philosophy of life consistent with Christian ideals."

**University Assessment:** Since its charter in 1924, Harding University has been strongly committed to providing the best resources and environment for the teaching-learning process. The board, administration, faculty, and staff are wholeheartedly committed to full compliance with all criteria of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The university values continuous and rigorous assessment at every level for its potential to improve student learning and achievement and for its centrality in fulfilling the stated mission of Harding. Thus, a comprehensive assessment program has been developed, including the Academic and Administrative and Educational Support (AES) units. Specifically, all academic units will be assessed about the following Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose: The University provides programs that enable students to acquire essential knowledge, skills, and dispositions in their academic disciplines for successful careers, advanced studies, and servant leadership.

**Academic Integrity:** Honesty and integrity are characteristics that should describe each one of us as servants of Jesus Christ. As your instructor, I pledge that I will strive for honesty and integrity in how I handle the content of this course and in how I interact with each of you. I ask that you join me in pledging to do the same. Academic dishonesty will result in penalties up to and including dismissal from the class with a failing grade and will be reported to the Director of Academic Affairs. All instances of dishonesty will be handled according to the procedures delineated in the Harding University catalog.

Presentation slides and other materials posted in Canvas are provided to facilitate the education of students currently enrolled in the course. All course materials developed by a faculty member or other author are the intellectual property of that faculty member or author and may not be distributed further without the approval of the faculty member or author.

The same applies to recordings of lectures and/or other activities within the course, including those recordings created by the student.

**Student Declaration:** Submitting an electronic document at Harding University constitutes an agreement with the following declaration:

- I affirm that the work submitted is of my own accord, is original, and contains the necessary and appropriate citations, where the work is from another source.
- I affirm that this assignment has not previously been submitted in any form.
- When submitting assignments to Turnitin, I acknowledge and adhere to its disclaimer Statements.
- To uphold Harding University's Academic Integrity Covenant.

**Students with Disabilities:** It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, according to federal and state law. Therefore, any student with a documented disability condition (e.g. physical, learning, or psychological) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations, must contact the instructor and the Office of Disability Services and Educational Access at the beginning of each semester. If the diagnosis of the disability occurs during the academic year, the student must self-identify with the Director of Disability Services and Educational Access as soon as possible to put academic accommodations in place for the remainder of the semester. The Office of Disability Services and Educational Access is located in Suite 239 in the Student Center and can be reached at (501) 279-4019.

### **Course Academic Conduct**

All acts of dishonesty in any academic work constitute academic misconduct. As a student of Harding University, you should avoid all cases that will be construed as academic misconduct. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

1. *Cheating*: Use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
2. *Plagiarism*: Representing the words, ideas, or data of another as your own in any academic exercise.
3. *Fabrication*: Falsification or unauthorized invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
4. *Aiding and Abetting Academic Dishonesty*: Intentionally helping or attempting to help another student commit an act of academic dishonesty.
5. *Conduct unbecoming a professional while participating in a practicum, internship, field experience, or any similar academic experience*: Conduct unbecoming a professional includes, but is not limited to, standards of conduct stated in any [Harding University student handbooks](#) as well as standards and codes of conduct associated with professional organizations related to the student's academic discipline.
6. *Respect*: Students are expected to respect other classmates' opinions and ideas at all times.

### **Special Note on the use of AI such as ChatGPT**

Unless your instructor includes instruction on acceptable usage of ChatGPT or a similar A.I. product in the course, your use of artificial intelligence for writing any part of an assignment will be considered academic fraud, and you will risk being removed from the program. It is our sincere hope that you understand the connections between reading, writing, and learning. Writing about something helps build neural pathways that aid you in connecting your new knowledge within the context of knowledge you've already learned. Skipping this step and using something written by AI or by another person means you are cheating yourself out of learning. Please be responsible and ethical in your coursework, and please submit your writing.

### **Academic Grievance Policy**

If a student believes that he or she has reason to question the decision of a faculty member with regard to the final grade received in a course or the denial of academic progression, a procedure has been established to resolve the grievance.

The student must initiate the written Academic Grievance Appeal within five business days after notification of the final grade in Pipeline or notification of denial of academic progression.



In cases of both course grade and academic progression appeals, students are encouraged to first engage the involved faculty member in a good faith discussion (in person or via telephone or email) as the first step in resolving any concerns. If resolution is not achieved, a student may submit a written academic grievance by following [the policy outlined in the Harding University catalog](#). All students should be familiar with this policy.

### **Time Management Expectations**

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, problem-solving, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

**Dress Code:** All members of the Harding community are expected to maintain standards of modesty and decency in dress appropriate to the Christian lifestyle and consistent with professional employment expectations. For these reasons, students are expected to adhere to an established dress code, as described in the Student Handbook, which faculty, staff, and administration will enforce. A student may be asked to leave class or other activities if they are not in keeping with these expectations.

**Canvas or Internet Outages Policy:** As a learner, you must be able to manage technical difficulties such as power outages, connection problems, and other technical issues. Technology will sometimes fail. For this reason, it is advisable to complete your assigned work before the due date.

**Inclement Weather:** If inclement weather prohibits your participation in any element of this course, prompt communication with me is expected. Your safety is my primary concern. We will handle any instances that arise on a case-by-case basis.

**Technical Support:** For technical assistance from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., M-F, please contact the e-Learning Help Desk at

Phone: 501-279-5201

Email: [elearning@harding.edu](mailto:elearning@harding.edu)

Web: [E-Learning Web Address](#)

For Canvas assistance, search [Canvas Guides](#).

**Academic Support Services:** Harding offers a wide variety of academic support services. While this list is not all-inclusive, the following links may be useful to students (some services may not be applicable for graduate or professional students):

- [Library](#)
- [Tutoring](#)
- [Testing](#)
- [Writing Center](#)

**Student Support Services:** Harding offers a wide variety of student support services. While this list is not all-inclusive, the following links may be useful to students (some services may not be applicable for graduate or professional students):

- [Advising](#) • [Counseling](#)
- [Registration](#) • [Student Life](#)
- [Financial Aid](#) • [Career Services](#)

**Restriction on Disclosure and Distribution:** Students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. To foster a safe environment for learning, however, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Unauthorized distribution of such materials is a violation of academic standards and may violate copyright laws and/or privacy rights.

**Copyright Notice:** Unless otherwise noted, all materials presented and delivered during the course are the property of the presenter and Harding University, and any duplication, reuse, retransmission, or rebroadcast of any course materials without the express written consent of the instructor or an authorized agent of Harding University is prohibited.

**Instructor Notes:** *Let's have some fun and learn! If you have any questions or need clarification, please don't hesitate to ask. You can text or shoot me an email. Also, FYI, Academic Student Services offers ASL tutoring! If you need someone to practice or a tutor please contact them. The best is yet to come! Professor Fortenberry*