

# Gallaudet University

## GSR 103 – ASL/DEAF STUDIES

### Felicia Williams

SLCC 1201

Office hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 10 – 12 & 1-3pm

Fridays – by appointment

[felicia.williams@gallaudet.edu](mailto:felicia.williams@gallaudet.edu)



## COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course focuses developing critical skills in ASL where students will be able to analyze, discuss and synthesize academic texts that will be encountered throughout and after students' academic career. This is accomplished by exploring topics, ideas and texts and their language elements. This course will explore how these topics affect Deaf lives.

**Pre-requisite:** Qualifying performance on  
ASL Assessment

### GSR 103-16: Introduction to ASL & Deaf Studies

SAC 1214

Fall 2013

Tuesdays/Thursdays

2:00PM-3: 20PM

3 credit hours

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is offered as part of a Learning Cluster, which integrates GSR 101 (First Year Seminar), GSR 102 (Critical Reading and Writing) and GSR 103 (American Sign Language and Deaf Studies). The purpose of the course is to prepare students to engage in critical, academic thinking through American Sign Language.

Students will be introduced to historical, linguistic, literary and academic dimensions of American Sign Language. Students will learn the differences between formal and informal uses of language and gain experiences in critical analysis of American Sign Language texts. This course will also explore the theme of “Deaf Lives” and engage students in thinking about the complexities involved in identity construction and what it means to live Deaf lives today.

## BLACKBOARD USE

We will be using the Blackboard course management system. Blackboard will be used to post announcements, curricular materials and any changes in syllabus, expectations and course work. It will be updated regularly. Blackboard will use students' Gallaudet email addresses to send out notifications. **IMPORTANT:** If you do not regularly check your Gallaudet email but prefer to use an alternative private email address, please set up email-forwarding for your Gallaudet email to your private email. This will ensure you will not miss any messages that might be sent out by Blackboard from your instructors. You are ultimately responsible for all information that is sent through Blackboard.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. **Assignments:** All draft and final assignments are to be submitted as instructed. No exceptions. Each assignment discussed will have specific instructions as well as rubrics given by the instructor. The instructions are to be followed meticulously.
2. **Student Responsibilities:** Students are expected to actively participate by attending class and completing assigned activities, participate in class discussions, serve in groups, complete assignments on time, respect diverse perspectives and opinions, and support opinions and answers with reasons, explanations and documentation from a variety of sources. If you are physically present but not engaged in class (listening to devices through earphones, using your phone during class, etc.), you **will be** counted absent without warning.
3. **Classroom Etiquette:** Basic classroom etiquette includes turning off external electronic devices that may interfere with class participation. Arrive on time for class, stay the entire period, and avoid behavior that interferes with the concentration and learning of other students. Attention should be given to the instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students.

# <sup>d</sup>POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

## (CONTINUED)

4. **Attendance:** You will be allowed three absences for any reason. For any additional absence, you will lose 5% of your possible points (50 points) from your overall course point total for each class that you miss. (Example: If you have 5 absences and 900 (A-) for your final point total, you will instead receive a final total of 800 (B-) after losing 100 points due to the two additional absences). Use this wisely. After 11 absences (including your 3 free passes), regardless of your grade, you will receive a F. Two tardies constitute an absence.
5. **Deadlines:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments not submitted on time will receive a zero unless they are submitted on the same day (before midnight) for a 10-point penalty.
6. **Peer Network:** Each student is responsible for getting access to and understanding what is expected of each assignment. Please form a strong network with your peers. If you miss a class, go to Blackboard for assignments and ask other classmates to learn about what you missed.
7. **ASL Skills Expectations Raised:** We will learn and apply academic ASL, which is a specialized type of discourse for academic assignments. Use only ASL in classroom and during video assignments throughout the semester. Using written ASL terms in your typed/written work is not acceptable.
8. **MyThread/YouTube:** Each of you will upload your homework video into [MyThread website](#) and/or YouTube. Some of your work may be shared with classmates for feedback. The staff in the [E-Learning Lab](#) can assist you to set it up and maintain it throughout the semester. To avoid potential problems, you are not to delete any video work you have created for class.



# MATERIALS

- Materials and Video Assignments will be posted in Blackboard

# GRADING

Grading for this course is based on a point system. Your final grade is based on the total number of points you have earned. Below is a chart outlining weights of course work for the semester as well as a numerical range breakdown for letter grades.

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS
Online Training	50
Ideology Reflection	50
News Flash (3)	100
Video Essays (4)	200
Guided Viewing (3)	150
Article Summaries (3)	150
Self-Feedback (4)	100
Final Reflective Essay	200
Total	1000

LETTER GRADE	POINTS
A+	1000-965
A	964-925
A-	924-895
B+	894-865
B	864-825
B-	824-795
C+	794-765
C	764-725
C-	724-695
D+	694-665
D	664-595
F	594-0

## EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

**Strong attendance is encouraged and will be rewarded with extra credit!**

ABSENCES	EXTRA POINTS
0	40
1	25
2	10
3	0

# ONLINE TRAINING

During the first week of our class, we will learn how to upload documents into Blackboard, upload videos into MyThread and YouTube. You will be given an assignment to complete (a basic introduction of yourself) and you will upload an English version and ASL versions into the appropriate place.

# IDEOLOGY REFLECTION

We will discuss various ideologies in class. Once we complete a segment of our discussion, you will be asked to do a reflection of your own ideology (video essay) and upload your video to YouTube. More instructions will be given in class.

# NEWS FLASH

It is our responsibility to be informed citizens of the world. You will be required to keep updated on current events/trends throughout the semester. With the technology and networks available to us, this is relatively easy. You can browse various news/information websites such as USA Today, CNN, MSNBC News, Fox and so forth online. There will be random days during the semester when you will be called (**3 total times** over the semester) on to give a brief summary of news that is current for the week. Further instructions will be given in class.

# VIDEO ESSAYS

We will watch a video to be discussed in class: Audism Unveiled and you will be required to attend at least two of these three lecture series during common time as we celebrate Gallaudet's 150th anniversary. After each discussion/lecture, you will give a reflective summary about what you learned. The 150th anniversary lecture dates are as follows:

- Andrew Solomon, award-winning author, lecturer, activist, and philanthropist

Tuesday, September 10, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Kellogg Conference Hotel, Swindells Auditorium

- Marilyn Jean Smith, '78, G-'77, and H-'04, founder of Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services

Tuesday, October 17, 12:30-1:45 p.m., TBD

- Anindya (Bapin) Bhattacharyya, Deaf-Blind technology expert/consultant

Thursday, November 14, 12:30-1:45 p.m., TBD

## VIDEO ESSAYS (CONTINUED)

The 4th video essay can be from any public lecture of your choosing on campus that is on campus (or you may choose to attend all three lectures as outlined in the syllabus).

## GUIDED VIEWING

We will watch three different ASL articles from ASLized! and Deaf Studies Digital Journal. We will answer various questions about these articles and how they were synthesized/presented. Further instructions will be given in class.

## ARTICLE SUMMARIES

As we watch the three articles, we will learn how to summarize these articles and give proper citations. Rubrics as well as examples will be given in class.

## SELF-FEEDBACK

A crucial skill for any and all academic training, a student must be able to assess one's own work and identify areas that need improvement. In addition to your instructor giving you feedback on your four video essays, you will also do a self-assessment. You will use given rubrics to give yourself an **in-depth** review and feedback for your work. You will identify areas in your work that were done effectively, as well as areas that will need improvement. For extra credit (up to 5 points per essay), you may re-do your work after doing a self-assessment.

## FINAL REFLECTIVE ESSAY

You will do a final reflective video essay that summarizes your experience in GSR 103. This essay will be synthesized as if you were posed a question by a person interested in taking the course. What information would you give? What was the most beneficial aspect of the course for you? Further instructions will be given in class.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES	ASSESSMENT TOOLS	UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES
Articulate effectively and appropriately using the grammar, mechanics, and registers of ASL.	MyThread/YouTube Assignments	ASL Rubric	1.1, 1.3
Demonstrate ability to analyze and produce ASL as text using ASL and English literature.	Video essay & ASL literature assignments	ASL Rubric	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5
Demonstrate ability to perform ASL presentations.	Team & solo presentations, persuasion presentation	ASL Presentation Rubric	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 5.5
Develop skills in video production.	In-class training & Visual Thread assignments and feedback	Production checklist	1.1, 4.1, 5.7
Develop skills in critical analysis of ASL texts and/or literature.	Video essay & ASL literature assignments	ASL Essay Rubric	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5
Develop ability to synthesize deaf themes into ASL texts.	Class lecture, discussion, videos	Quizzes	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
Examine the role of language in deaf lives.	Class lecture, discussion, videos	Quizzes	3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 4.4
Recognize and analyze historical perspectives towards ASL.	Video essay & ASL literature assignments	ASL Essay Rubric	3.1, 3.3, 4.2, 4.4
Identify and interpret various global language issues through multiple lens.	Video essay & ASL literature assignments	ASL Essay Rubric	1.4, 3.2, 3.3, 4.3, 4.4
Exhibit intellectual honesty, respect, and integrity in ASL discourse and products.	Proper use of citations, Academic Discourse	Checklist	1.1, 2.1, 5.4, 5.7

# GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

[http://my.gallaudet.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/CUE/CUE-Public/policies/AY0607/cue\\_AcademicIntegrity\\_08212007.pdf](http://my.gallaudet.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/CUE/CUE-Public/policies/AY0607/cue_AcademicIntegrity_08212007.pdf)

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who need special services or accommodations should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSWD), located in SAC Room 1022.

## SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Any changes to the syllabus or schedule will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

## INCOMPLETE GRADES

A grade of Incomplete (INC) is given when a portion of a student's required coursework has not been completed and evaluated at the end of the semester due to illness, or other unforeseen, but fully justified reasons, and earning credit is still possible. When this is the case, the INC form (available electronically at Faculty Center in Bison), including required supporting documentation and signatures, must be submitted to the registrar's office before the last day of classes. A student will not receive an incomplete grade for poor, incomplete, or failing work, or willful non-attendance of class. Students with an INC grade must complete the coursework and receive a grade by the end of the seventh week of the following traditional semester. Incomplete grades given during summer school must be removed during the following fall semester. Otherwise, the "INC" grade automatically becomes an "F". The time for removing an incomplete grade may be extended one time. The student must petition for an extension prior to the deadline following the reported incomplete. The student must have the approval of the course instructor, academic advisor, and dean of the school in which the student is enrolled.



# GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

**1. Language & Communication:** Students will use American Sign Language and written English to communicate effectively with diverse audiences, for a variety of purposes, and in a variety of settings.

**2. Critical Thinking:** Students will summarize, synthesize, and critically analyze ideas from multiple sources in order to draw well-supported conclusions and solve problems.

**3. Identity & Culture:** Students will understand themselves, complex social identities, including deaf identities, and the interrelations within and among diverse cultures and groups.

**4. Knowledge & Inquiry:** Students will apply knowledge, modes of inquiry, and technological competence from a variety of disciplines in order to understand human experience and the natural world.

**5. Ethics & Social Responsibility:** Students will make well-reasoned ethical judgments, showing awareness of multiple value systems and taking responsibility for the consequences of their actions. They will apply these judgments, using collaboration and leadership skills, to promote social justice in their local, national, and global communities.

# Course Schedule

DATES	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Day 1	Introduction, Syllabus, Why GSR 103?	
Day 2	Technology/Training - eLearning Lab	Online Training
Day 3	Ideology	
Day 4	Ideology (continued)	Ideology Reflection
Day 5	History of ASL	
Day 6	Phonology of ASL	4 Parameters Worksheet
Day 7	Register/Examples of Works	Self-Feedback Ideology Reflection
Day 8	Article #1	Guided Viewing Part 1
Day 9	Article #1	Guided Viewing Part 2
Day 10	Article #1 Summary Draft	
Day 11	Article #1 Summary Draft	Individual Article Summary Drafts
Day 12	Workshop (Self-Feedback)	Feedback on Article #1
Day 13	Workshop Article #1	Article #1 Final Video Due
Day 14	Audism Unveiled - Video	Video Essay #1 Due
Day 15	Article #2	Guided Viewing
Day 16	Article #2	Prep Article #2 Summary Draft
Day 17	Article #2 Summary Draft	Self Feedback Article #2
Day 18	Article #2 Revisions	Peer Feedback Article #2
Day 19	Article #2 Workshop/Revisions	Article #2 Final Video
Day 20	Article #3	Video Essay #2 Due Guided Viewing Article #3

DATES	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Day 21	Article #3	Prep Article #3 Summary Draft
Day 22	Article #3 Summary Draft	Self Feedback Article #3
Day 23	Article #3 Revisions	Peer Feedback Article #3
Day 24	Article #3 Final Revisions	
Day 25	Review Register/Techniques	Video Essay #3 Due
Day 26	Prepare for Final Reflection Essay	
Day 27	News Flash**	
Day 28	News Flash**	
Day 29	News Flash**	Video Essay #4 Due
Day 30	Wrap up/Course Evaluations	4 Self-Feedback on your 4 Video Essays

\*\*There will be 3 Days of News Flashes as outlined in Days 27-29. However, they will be spread throughout the semester, so be sure to be prepared. See News Flash in Syllabus/Blackboard for further information.

## ONLINE MATERIALS (FALL 2013)

We will be reviewing the following articles in class:

[Black ASL by Dr. Joseph Hill](#)

An introduction to **The Hidden Treasures of Black ASL**

The Right of the Deaf Child to Grow Up Bilingual by Francois Grosjean, translated into ASL by Wanda Riddle (link given in Blackboard)

[Why ASL? by Justin Jackerson](#)

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 2 - Labor Day - No classes

November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break - No class that week (University is still open)

December 10 - Study Day

December 13 - Final Reflection Essay Due

\*\*\*Dates for 150th Anniversary Lecture Series are above under "Video Essays"\*\*\*