



American Sign Language 1030B (270)
Winter 2026
American Sign Language For Beginners

Course Information:

Calendar Description: This course introduces foundations of American Sign Language including linguistic perspectives, dialogue skill set, vocabulary, and syntax. Instruction may also include sociocultural contexts regarding the Deaf community, culture, and history. Note: Students with any ASL language background must see instructor to determine eligibility for course.

Prerequisite(s):

Anti-requisite(s): English 2095A taken in Fall 2019.

Extra Information: 3 hours.

Course Weight:0.50 **Breadth:** Category B

Subject Code: ASL

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary pre-requisites.



American Sign Language 1030B (270)
ASL for Beginners
Winter 2025

Instructor: Zoh Qureshi
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Course Information

Calendar Description: This course introduces foundations of American Sign Language including linguistic perspectives, dialogue skill set, vocabulary, and syntax. Instruction may also include sociocultural contexts regarding the Deaf community, culture, and history. Note: Students with any ASL language background must see instructor to determine eligibility for course.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Antirequisite(s): English 2095A taken in Fall 2019.

Extra Information: Blended – 2 hours online synchronous, 1 hour in-person

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category B

Subject Code: ASL

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Course description: This introductory course is designed for beginners with no prior or some knowledge of ASL. The course focuses on developing basic conversational skills, including finger spelling, vocabulary, and common phrases. Students will learn about the structure and grammar of ASL, which differs significantly from English, and be introduced to basic linguistics principles. The course also covers daily conversation skills and introduces students to Deaf Culture, exploring its history, community, and norms. Emphasis will be placed on both receptive (understanding) and expressive (signing) skills, aligning with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) standards. Interactive activities and practice sessions will help students gain confidence in using ASL in everyday situations. By the end of the course, students will be able to engage in simple conversations and understand basic ASL signs.

Mode of Instruction: Online synchronous + In-person tutorial

Course Materials

True + Way ASL	Harris/Gelineau/Shannon /Marbury/Bryan	Purple Moontower LLC	3rd Edition	ISBN: 9781953197085
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Note: This course requires the textbook *ASL True Way* for units 1-2. Students can access it through the course's online platform.

This course will require the following: Technology and space requirements

- Laptop/Computer
- Webcam
- A quiet space to take part in synchronous learning.
- Stable high-speed internet connection
- Proper lighting

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Apply accurate use of ASL parameters.
2. Understand and correctly apply ASL structure in dialogues and narratives using learned repertoire.
3. Comprehend and express everyday ASL numerical incorporation and fingerspelling.
4. Show the use of ASL spatial relations including possessive and person pronouns, subject-object, verb agreement, and referents.
5. Describe familiar contexts using everyday expressions and phrases in ASL.
6. Retell ASL narratives and texts to demonstrate comprehension of content.
7. Demonstrate appropriate use of ASL conversational regulators and cultural norms.
8. Demonstrate understanding of concrete questions and instructions in ASL and respond accordingly.

Methods of Evaluation:

5 TWA Assignments.....20%
 2 Tests..20%
 Presentation.....15%
 Final Exam.....30%
 Tutorials.....15%

Week	Date	Description
1	Jan 5	First Day of ASL Class, Winter Term Unit 1 – Welcome to the Deaf World: Getting Started Assignment #1 – 4% (Due Jan 12)
2	Jan 12	Unit 1.2 – Introduction to ASL
3	Jan 19	Unit 1.3 – Basic ASL Unit 1.4 Classroom Actions Assignment #2 – 4% (Due Jan 26)
4	Jan 26	1.5 – Basic Math and Numbers
5	Feb 2	Unit 1 Review Test #1 – 10% (In person)
6	Feb 9	Unit 2.1 – Describing Basic Appearances: Age and Identity Assignment #3 – 4% (Due Feb 23)
7	Feb 16	Spring Reading Week
8	Feb 23	Unit 2.2 – Family, Friends, and Pets Presentation – Deaf Culture – 15% (Due Mar 6)
9	Mar 2	Unit 2.3 – Employment Status Assignment #4– 4% (Due Mar 9)
10	Mar 9	Unit 2 Review Assignment #5 – 4% (Due Mar 16)
11	Mar 16	Everyday ASL Conversations Test #2 – 10% (In Person)
12	Mar 23	Guest Speak
13	Mar 30	Gum Story
14	Apr 6	Timber Story
15		Re-Telling Story (either Gum or Timber): Final Exam – 30% (Take-Home, Due April 13)

Assignments and Tests

True+Way American Sign Language includes assignments that students must complete; these will be marked. Tests will be completed during the tutorial section of the course.

- Tests are multiple-choice, short answer and sign questions.
- TWA assignments reinforce lecture material.
- Presentation will be done in sign language.
- Final Exam – in ASL

Assessment Deadlines

- All tests and assignments must be completed on the dates specified in the course syllabus.
- Any test or assignment missed without prior approval from the instructor **or** without an approved Academic Consideration Request will receive a grade of zero.
- Students are permitted **one undocumented absence per course, per semester** without supporting documentation.

Academic Consideration for Major Assessments

- Requests for Academic Consideration related to **Test 1, Test 2, the Presentation, or the Final Exam** must:
 - include written supporting documentation, and
 - be submitted directly to the **Office of the Academic Dean** through the [Student Absence Portal](#)

Attendance and Participation:

The American Sign Language course in the Department of English, French, and Writing puts great emphasis on class attendance and participation. There is a clear correlation between student success in a course and attendance patterns. We feel that it is extremely important for students studying American Sign Language to attend the two-hour synchronous online lecture each week, as well as the scheduled weekly in-person tutorial. At the beginning of each tutorial, an attendance sheet will be circulated; please make sure you sign the sheet before the end of the class. **The tutorial is worth 15% of the final grade in the course.**

Classroom Expectations for ASL Learning

American Sign Language is a visual language; cameras must remain on. The 15 % attendance and participation mark takes into consideration: attendance, active participation in discussions, reading/viewing required videos on TWA before coming to class, and homework. In a class with a Deaf instructor, speaking aloud instead of signing is considered disrespectful. Please use ASL for all communication during class time.

Attendance in both Lecture and Tutorial is vital. A student may be debarred from writing the final exam for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. Any student who, in the instructor's opinion, is excessively absent from class or laboratory sessions will, after due warning*, be reported to the Chair of the department offering the course. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Chair, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.

*Due warning means that the instructor has advised the student in writing/email of the nature of the unsatisfactory performance (i.e., absent too frequently from class), and the consequence of continued unsatisfactory performance (i.e., if another class is missed, the instructor will advise the department and request the student be barred from writing the final exam).

Academic Offences and Plagiarism:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Please note that plagiarism constitutes a major academic offence. "Plagiarism – Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations". Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

CLASS-SPECIFIC POLICY ON AI (E.G CHAT GPT) – Within this course, use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as Chat GPT is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline. This policy also applies to automatic translators or any other unauthorized grammar or translation aids. In the case of an open-book quiz or assignment, you will be allowed to bring paper material only (no tablet, telephone or computer).

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

Please note that Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the

purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.