

Austin Community College
SLNG 1315: Hybrid Visual Gestural Communication
Master Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Development of skills in non-verbal communications. Emphasizes the use and understanding of facial expression, gestures, pantomime, and body language.

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS:

- 1) Axtell, R. E. (1998). *Gestures: Do's and taboos of body language around the world*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- 2) Internet access to ACC Gmail, ACC Blackboard, and Dropbox.com (MANDATORY)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To analyze and connect the relationship between gestures and signs.
2. To become aware of the cultural implications of using inappropriate gestures in unfamiliar cultural etiquettes in diverse countries and customs.
3. To develop and incorporate basic gestural handshapes creating visual-spatial formation.
4. To develop basic knowledge in gestures.
5. To develop basic skills in transferring from gestures to signs.
6. To become more comfortable in using gestures to communicate.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

After this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate comprehension of simple conversations by producing appropriate responses to gestured questions.
2. Demonstrate the ability to describe surroundings and appearance of objects.
3. Demonstrate the ability to use facial expressions to describe varying degrees of emotions.
4. Demonstrate the ability to use shifting perspectives to identify various viewing angles.
5. Demonstrate the ability to present a story/presentation through gestures.
6. Demonstrate and develop the ability to retell situations in gestures.
7. Demonstrate the ability to infuse gestures into signs.
8. Demonstrate the ability to maintain a dialogue between two or more people using gestures.
9. Demonstrate the ability to describe various sizes and shapes of objects.

The Visual Gestural Communication course is designed as a hybrid course. The “Flipped” classroom model will be used for the duration of the semester. All of the lectures will be online, and we will do various hands-on activities in class to reinforce what you have learned from the online lectures.

“Hybrid” is the name commonly used to describe courses that combine traditional face-to-face classroom instruction with online, computer-based learning. ACC Hybrid courses combine the best of the two worlds, engaging students in the active, autonomous learning process of an Internet-based ONL course, while also providing regularly scheduled interaction with the course instructor. For more information about the Hybrid system, please check this link: <http://dl.austincc.edu/information/>.

COURSE GRADING SYSTEM:

Your comprehension and expressive skills will be evaluated regularly. You will also be evaluated on your preparation for class activities and your assignments outside of the class.

Online Lecture Activities	20%
Class Participation	20%
Quizzes	20%
Final Project	20%
Assignments	<u>20%</u>
- Interactive Videotapes	
- Interactive Worksheets	
- Videotape Assignments	
Total =100%	

***Note: It's your responsibility to check and keep track of your grades via your ACC course blackboard.**

Complete Assignments: All non-video assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Blackboard, unless otherwise instructed. **Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment, except under extreme circumstances.** All assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will impact the student's grade.

For all videos, please upload your videos to the folder on dropbox.com. Please create a folder with your last name, course name, and day of course meeting. For example, **DOE VGC M/W**.

1. Visit the assignments link in the course folder in Blackboard for details about each assignment listed. Also visit the lecture notes link for all of the online lectures and notes.
2. About 30% of this course is delivered online through Blackboard. **If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, you MUST make arrangements on your own for an orientation. It is NOT the instructor's responsibility to provide orientation on Blackboard.**

See detailed Blackboard information below.

Blackboard

1. How to log in to Blackboard

Do you have an ACCeID & password? If so, you are ready to go! There are two easy ways to access Blackboard:

1. Log in at <https://acconline.austincc.edu> with your ACCeID & password
2. Link to your classes via MyACC: <https://acconline.austincc.edu>. After logging into MyACC, click on the "Courses" tab, and then click on a class title from your Fall term list.

2. How to find help with Blackboard

- Students can find online tutorials, videos and downloadable PDFs at:
<http://irt.austincc.edu/blackboard/StudentSupport.php>

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all online and face-to-face class sessions as listed on the course calendar. Attendance at face-to-face class meetings and participation in online activities is essential for the success of the hybrid experience.

All students will be expected to participate in class discussions and activities on a regular basis.

“Participation” does not mean giving “right” answers. It means thinking about the material, sharing your thoughts, paying attention, and giving your best effort.

You should plan to attend class regularly, inasmuch as the material covered in class and participation in class discussions are vital to your performance in this course. Students cannot expect to pass this course with knowledge of the information in the workbook only.

- a. Each tardiness occurrence after 15 minutes from the class start time will be documented, and the student will be asked to leave the class. A *participation* point will be deducted for each time you come to class late.
- b. The instructor will withdraw any student who is absent from more than three classes; however, you are ultimately responsible for withdrawing yourself from the class. If you plan to be absent for the extended time for educational purposes, you need to confer with the instructor for prior approval.
- c. Please inform me if you have an exceptional circumstance that causes you to miss class. It is YOUR responsibility to ask your classmates for any information that you missed during your absence.

Classroom Civility: Students should arrive on time and are expected to remain until the end of class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave the class. Watch/read all assigned material BEFORE you come to class and be prepared to participate.

No Voice/English Mouthing Policy: Avoid voicing or English mouthing during class time. Once the instructor enters the classroom, please silence yourself and sign with your class peers. Talking without signing in the presence of a Deaf instructor or any Deaf person is considered rude in Deaf culture. Write notes to each other if you must or SIGN! This NO VOICE rule will be enforced from the beginning until the end of the class.

The skills to be developed in the class depend on visual perception and memory. Use of auditory stimuli discourages this learning process for both the person talking and other students in the class. The students will experience cross-cultural interaction between Deaf and hearing people. It is important that the student recognizes this and respects the culture.

Instructor Responsibilities

You can expect me (your instructor) to:

- Attend every class period and arrive to class on time. If I am not there, WAIT. Someone will be there to take roll and provide instruction.
- Come to class with a good attitude
- Be respectful of your ideas and value the diversity you bring to the classroom
- Be open to dialogue that challenges me
- Answer any appropriate questions you may have
- Use a variety of teaching techniques and modalities to accommodate different learning styles
- Return assignments in class and online in a timely fashion and provide helpful feedback
- Grade video assignments within a week of the day they were submitted
- Respond to your emails within 48 hours(not including weekend)
- Be present during my stated office hours

- Minimize disruptions and distractions in the classroom so that everyone has the best possible opportunity to learn

Course Policies:

You are responsible for knowing the policies and procedures below. You can pick up a copy of the Student Handbook in a counseling office on any campus or access it online from our web page: www.austincc.edu. Please take special note of the following: *Students with Disabilities, withdrawal policy, Incompletes, Scholastic/Academic Dishonesty, Prohibited Acts, Unattended Children, Children in the Classroom, and Student Discipline Policy.*

Students with Disabilities/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations:

Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who need classroom, academic or other accommodations must request them through the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) Students are encouraged to request accommodations when they register for courses or at least three weeks before the start of the semester; otherwise, the provision of accommodations may be delayed.

Students who have received approval for accommodations from OSD for this course must provide the instructor with the form 'Notice of Approved Accommodations' from OSD before accommodations will be provided. Arrangement for academic accommodations can be made. Students with approved accommodations are encouraged to submit the Notice of Approved Accommodations to the instructor at the beginning of the semester, but *no later than 3 weeks into the semester*, because a reasonable amount of time may be needed to prepare and arrange for the accommodations.

Additional information about the Office for Students with Disabilities is available at <http://www.austincc.edu/support/osd/>.

Withdrawal Policy: Student who are absent for more than three (3) consecutive classes will be required to withdraw from the course. Refer to the student handbook (www.austincc.edu) for the withdrawal policy under other circumstances. If you have a very unique or extreme situation, please discuss it with your instructor. **The last day for student-initiated withdrawal is November 10, 2013.**

Incompletes: Incompletes will be given only under very unique or extreme circumstances.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

A student attending ACC assumes responsibility for conduct compatible with the mission of the college as an educational institution. Students have the responsibility to submit coursework that is the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, and falsifying documents. Penalties for scholastic dishonesty will depend upon the nature of the violation and may range from lowering a grade on one assignment to an "F" in the course and/or expulsion from the college. See the student Standards of Conduct and Disciplinary Process and other policies at <http://www.austincc.edu/current/needtoknow>

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Students at the college have the rights accorded by the U.S. Constitution to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition, and association. These rights carry with them the responsibility to accord the same rights to others in the college community and not to interfere with or disrupt the educational process. Opportunity for students to examine and question pertinent data and assumptions of a given discipline, guided by the evidence of scholarly research, is appropriate in a learning environment. This concept is

accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility on the part of the student. As willing partners in learning, students must comply with college rules and procedures.

Safety Statement:

ACC is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. You are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, healthy and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Additional information on these can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/ehs>.

Because some healthy and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the Emergency Procedures poster and Campus Safety Plan map in each classroom. Additional information about emergency procedures and how to sign up for ACC Emergency Alerts to be notified in the event of a serious emergency can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/emergency/>.

Please note, you are expected to conduct yourself professionally, with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual will be dismissed from the day's activity, and may be withdrawn from the class and/or barred from attending future activities.

Use of ACC email:

All college email communication to students will be sent solely to the student's ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify you of any college related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive email communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Instructions for activating an ACCmail can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/accmail/index.php>.

Important Information: Please feel free to call, email or write me notes about any questions or concerns you may have. You may also request to meet with me with an **interpreter** during my office hours or by appointment.

Tentative Visual Gestural Communication Instruction Schedule		
Week	Day One	Day Two
One	Lecture: What is Gesture, Types of Non-Verbal Communication	Lecture: Body Language, Gestures Taboo
Two	Lecture: Handshapes, Facial Expressions	Lecture: Referencing, Use of Space
Three	Lecture: Basic Shapes, Dimension	Lecture: Size, Combined Objects Description
Four	Lecture: Colors, Textures, Patterns	Lecture: People, Surroundings
Five	Lecture: Camera Angle, Special Effects	Lecture: Creative Picture Story, Storyboard
Six	Lecture: Counting, Plurality, Text to Gestures	Lecture: Calendar, Time
Seven	Lecture: Money, Measurement	Lecture: Dialogues, Directions, Situations
Eight	Lecture: Explaining Rules, Interesting Facts	Lecture: Storytelling, Presentation,
Nine	Lecture: ASL to Gestures	Lecture: Gestures to ASL
Ten	Group Debate	Final Project