

**LS 313**  
**ASL Varieties and Topics**

**4 Credits**

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## LS 313 Version: 4



### ASL Varieties and Topics

#### Calendar Description

This seminar provides students with the opportunity to examine language in use across a number of topics and issues that affect the Deaf community throughout Canada and the United States of America, including signed language research and current issues that intersect language and interpreting.

#### Rationale

This is a required course for students enrolled in the Sign Language Interpretation Diploma program. Signed language interpreters facilitate communication between two languages: English and American Sign Language (ASL). The ability to recognize and be able to utilize various discourse features of ASL is central to the work of interpreters. This course looks closely at ASL discourse and its use in the environments introduced in LS 308. In addition, this course introduces ASL vocabulary used in these environments. The application of this newly acquired knowledge of discourse features, and setting specific ASL vocabulary, is further supported by LS 310 and LS 301 coursework.

#### Prerequisites

LS 200 and LS 225

#### Co-Requisites

LS 301, LS 308, and LS 310

#### Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. identify specific features of ASL discourse in signed communication.
2. express thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences in ASL using appropriate discourse features.
3. demonstrate the ability to incorporate features of ASL discourse to setting specific (i.e. medical, mental health etc.) communication.

4. describe concepts, ideas and experiences specific to settings such as Deafblind, VRS etc. using appropriate setting specific vocabulary.
5. assess one's personal ability to interact and communicate with other ASL users at community-based events.

## **Resource Materials**

There are no required texts for this course. All supplemental materials are provided by the instructor.

## **Conduct of Course**

The knowledge and skill acquired in this course pertain directly to the interpreting environments examined in LS 308, and prepare students for participation in LS 301 and LS 310. Knowledge and skill in this course are developed via classroom and community-based observation of ASL discourse, and practice in the classroom via individual presentations, group dialogue, and personal reflections on the use of ASL discourse.

This is a 4 credit course which translates into 4 hours per week (or a total of 60 hours). It is expected that students need to devote approximately 4 hours per week preparing for class and completing course assignments, and that all assignments be completed and submitted in a timely and professional manner.

In preparation for working as a signed language interpreter, it is imperative that students demonstrate strong expressive and receptive skills in ASL. Tutors are available at no charge to students with documented learning disabilities. Other ASL tutoring services are available at the student's expense. Additionally, there are a number of student success resources including one-on-one coaching and support available online at no charge. For more information on participating in the above-mentioned programs or resources, please contact Lakeland's Accessibility Advisor.

## **Professional Conduct**

Professional identity is fostered by adherence to the CASLI (AVLIC) Code of Ethics and Professional Guidelines (found on the CASLI (AVLIC) website [www.avlic.ca](http://www.avlic.ca)) as well as by a personal commitment to continue on the path towards further skill enhancement. It is expected that students demonstrate high standards of confidentiality, professional presentation and a commitment to further learning in all academic related activities and interactions.

In addition, it is expected that all students adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Student Handbook, and the Lakeland College Student Policies & Procedures.

## Evaluation Procedures

Student progress in this course is evaluated via two Progress Checks, two community interaction reflective entries (the instructor reserves the right to modify dependent upon availability of community events), and one in-class presentation required in conjunction with LS 308. The weighting for each evaluation measure is listed in the table below.

Community Interaction Reflective Entries (2)	20%
In-class Presentation	25%
Progress Check #1	25%
Progress Check #2	30%

See the course schedule for due dates.

## Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

*A minimum grade of B (3.00) (75-79%) is required to pass this course. Any mark below 75% is considered an F. A cumulative GPA of B (3.00) is required to qualify to graduate. Students are responsible for monitoring their academic progress and requesting assistance as necessary.*

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

## Attendance

Attendance is considered vital to the learning process and as significant to the students' evaluation as are progress checks and assignments, therefore, absenteeism is recorded. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of timely completion of course work and assignments.

In keeping with professional standards in the field of signed language interpreting, should a situation arise that prevents a student from attending class, submitting an assignment on time, presenting, or writing a progress check, the student is required to notify the course instructor as far in advance as possible. Should the situation involve an emergency, a medical note or other supporting documentation must be submitted to the instructor or the program facilitator within 24 hours of the absence.

Absence from progress checks or interpreting assessments without medical documentation results in a grade of zero.

In the event of an absence, it is recommended that students follow up with a peer first, then consult the course instructor for additional clarification or questions regarding material covered.

Professional practice requires that students arrive and be prepared for class at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of class.

Students arriving after class commences are considered absent. More than two (2) absences may result in probation. Further absences may result in suspension from the program.

*Instructors have the authority to require attendance in classes.*

### **Course Units/Topics**

- ASL Discourse Features
- Use of ASL in Platform Interpreting
- Use of ASL in Business/Employment Settings
- Use of ASL in K-12 Interpreting
- Use of ASL in Post-Secondary Interpreting
- Use of ASL in Mental Health Interpreting
- Use of ASL in Medical Interpreting
- Use of ASL in Religious Interpreting
- Use of ASL in Video Relay Service/Remote Interpreting (VRS/RI)
- Use of ASL in Deafblind Interpreting
- Use of ASL in Legal Interpreting



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