



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Visual/Gestural Communication
SLNG 1315 .H1**

Gayle VanTrease

NOTE: This is 16-weeka Blended/Hybrid Course

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website on any changes to these guidelines.

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Course Description:

SLNG 1315 – Visual/Gestural Communication: T

his course will develop skills in non-verbal communications by emphasizing the use and understanding of facial expression, gestures, pantomime, and body language. Students will create and perform stories and other projects using these elements. This course presents a series of activities designed to help students develop skills in communicating without words. These skills will direct students toward concepts in communicating with minimal language persons, creative performances, and the art of American Sign Language. Concentration on the ability to think in pictures, to develop expressive and receptive communication skills in gestures and lead to better understanding of the basic structures of American Sign Language.

3 Semester Hours.

VISION STATEMENT

The American Sign Language (ASL) classrooms are characterized by students actively engaged in learning, and by teachers serving as guides and facilitators for frequent interaction in the target language. The students develop language proficiency as they use the language in relevant and meaningful situations through the use of simulations, small group work, technology, and authentic materials. The students are encouraged to increase their sensitivity to the Deaf culture, its values, customs, and traditions, to increase their understanding of ASL, and to respect the cultural and linguistic differences that they encounter in the classroom and the Deaf community.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Prerequisite: SGNL 1401 and SGNL 1402

Preferred CoRequisite: SGNL 2301

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

The instructor uses gestures throughout the course. Rules in this classroom, no mouthing, no signing, and no fingerspelling/everything had to be gestured or, as a last resort, use signs or written on the marker board with as few words as possible.

This is a very hands-on class. I recommend wearing comfortable clothing and shoes, as you will be moving around quite a bit. Warm-up exercise (mini-calisthenics) at the beginning of each class.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name:	Gayle VanTrease
MCC E-mail:	gvantrease@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number	N/A
Office Location:	CSC, E210
Office/Conference Hours:	No set office hours for online course.

The best way to contact me is via email. I will try to respond within 48 hours to emails, possibly longer over the weekend or when I am out of town. Email is the best way to contact me. If you want to see me in person, email me and we will set up an appointment.

Other Instruction Information:

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Required Text & Materials:

There is no required text for this course. Instead, we will be using an assortment of stories, dialogue, skits, pictures, and songs in a variety of media, to be provided by the instructor.

[MCC Bookstore Website](#)

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

This is a hand-on, activity-oriented class where students will be using their faces, hands, and bodies, to express themselves. Students will experience a dynamic classroom environment, written assignments, and assessments of skills through student performances. Some assignments will be turned in via recording (in ASL lab) and others will require classroom presentation. All students will be expected to demonstrate skills and perform various projects in front of their peers, and occasionally outside of class.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

The student will:

1. To explain the importance of visual gestural communication in relation to origin of the signs, sign language and culture. (SLO 8,12)
2. To demonstrate visual gestural communication skills through performance activities. (SLO 8)
3. To show visual gestural communication aspects by using manual gestures, facial expression and body movement. (SLO 8,12)
4. To read visual gestural communication aspects by analyzing eye, face and body behaviors.
5. Analyze work produced by other students and offer constructive suggestions. (SLO 12)
6. Discuss how skills learned will assist in communicating with minimal language persons. (SLO 12)
7. Use and maintain lab equipment, including cameras, tape players, etc. (SLO 11)
8. Use computers to communicate with instructor, to access software, and to perform internet searches. (SLO 11)
9. Perform stories/narratives through gestures. (SLO 8)

Course Outline or Schedule:

The tentative course outline is as follows:

Weeks		Unit	Project/Assignment
Week	1-4	Mime and Characterization	Facial Expression Assignment Mime Assignment Layout Assignment
Week	5	Gestural Notification Statement	Written Research Begins
Week	7-8	Performance/Pantomime Skit	Action Skit Project
Week	9-10	Stories Presentations	Story Telling Project Expression Exam
Week	11-13	Group Skits	Group Skit Project Due: Written Research
Week	14-15	Song and Games	Pledge of Allegiance Project

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Course Outline or Schedule:

The following is a TENTATIVE schedule of topics and units to be covered in this course, but the schedule may change according to student progress and needs. Announcements about major changes in this schedule will be made in class and posted on D2L/Brightspace.

ALL expressive and receptive skills are to be placed on GoReact. Use appropriate of gestures, facial expressions, and eye contacts all the times.

Week	Lecture/In Class Activity	Self-Regulated Learning/Homework
1-4 (8/25 - 9/17)	Mime and Characterization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gestures (friendly, respects, signals, made with body parts, single hand/two-hand, handshapes, etc) • Facial Expression/ Personal, emotions • Eye contacts/eye trainings • Describe various sizes and shapes of objects • Mime/pantomime practice (ex. stuck in glass room, use objects, rope, cooking/eating food, driving car, etc.) • Slow motion • Locations of furniture arrangement and of objects in a room 	**Get your GoReact App! Facial Expression Assignment: Due by 9/3 on GoReact Mime Assignment: Due by 9/8 on GoReact Layout Assignment (in Gestures): Due by 9/17 on GoReact
5-6 (9/22- 10/1)	Gestured Notification/statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery messages • Questions • Improvisation scenarios 	Research Written Assignment: Due by Nov 12th Thursday submit to me via email or brightspace.
7-8 (10/6 – 10/15)	Performance/pantomime skit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama/acting • Stories/Scenes • Creative • Film Analysis 	Action Skit Project (Individual): Due Oct 17th on GoReact Pledge of Allegiance Performance at Heart of Texas Rodeo on Oct 8th Tuesday (???)
9 -10 (10/20 – 10/29)	Stories/presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-stories • Narrator • Classic Storytelling 	Gesture Expressive Exam: Oct 24th in lab, on GoReact Storytelling Performance Project (in Gestures): Due by Oct 26 on GoReact
11-13 (11/3 – 11/19)	Group skits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a dialogue between two or more people using gestures • scripts • settings 	Group Skit Project (Live): in class or Goreact on Nov 20th Tuesday

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14-15 (11/24 -12/3)	Song & Games <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Song skit/performance• Mime/gesture game ideas	Pledge of Allegiance Performance Project (in Gestures) : Due by Oct 12th on Go React.
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Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Please turn in your class assignments and projects on or before the due dates. There will be a 5 point penalty for each day an assignment is late. For extenuating circumstances, the instructor may waive the late penalty, but it is the students' responsibility to communicate with the instructor regarding their late work.

GoReact registration cost Free. **The link of GoReact registration is on BrightSpace.**

Online Video Assessment app required. Students will need to go to the link of GoReact App. Registration on D2L/Brightspace and the app cost is free.. The app is for your expressive practice skills and all assignments and exams.. Students will need to record and save to GoReact. ** (Please check with your instructor regarding specific instructions/requirements, because this will vary depending on the new equipment to be installed in the lab.)**

ALL expressive and receptive skills is to be placed on GoReact. Use appropriate of gestures, facial expressions, and eye contacts all the times.

Exam/Quiz Attire: For expressive/performances, you must wear solid color (depends on skin tone) for background clarity. **POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED. THE MORE VISUAL DISTRACTING THE SHIRT, THE MORE POINTS THAT WILL BE DEDUCTED. MAXIMUM POINTS DEDUCTED: 10**

Course Grading Information:

Grades will be based on students' performance in the following areas:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| a. Class Participation (in class/ GoReact) | 30% |
| b. Written Research Project | 10% |
| c. Test | 10% |
| d. Homework Assignments | 10% |
| e. Projects/Performances | 40% |

The following is an explanation of individual grading elements:

- Class Participation: For this class especially, full participation is imperative to learning the necessary skills. Failure to show up and participate in the activities will not only affect your participation grade, but also will reflect negatively on your overall performance and project grades.
- Research Project: You will turn in a 3 full-page typed paper (double spaced) that explains the importance of visual gestural communication in relation to origin of the signs, sign language and culture.

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- c. Expressive test: Your ability to explain a word and words/situations in gestures. Possible from sentences in English version or/and a short story picture.
- d. Homework Assignments: There will be several small homework assignments and other in-class performances that will help enhance your skills and give you a chance for practice and feedback leading up to your class projects. All homework and class assignments will be explained thoroughly and due-dates given at the appropriate time.
- e. Projects and Performances: There will be a total of four Performance Projects for this class, each worth 10% of your final grade, for a total of 40%. Those projects are the Action Skit, Storytelling Performance, Group Skit, and Pledge of Allegiance Performance. The detailed instructions will be handed out for each project over the course of the semester.

Grade Scale

Letter Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Total Points	100 – 90	89 – 80	79 – 70	69 – 60	59 or Below

Performance Evaluation sample:

Project/assignment _____

Name _____

Translation	4	3	2	1	0
Clarity (Articulation)	4	3	2	1	0
Gestures	4	3	2	1	0
Facial Expression	4	3	2	1	0
New gestures	4	3	2	1	0

Research Project Evaluation Due Oct 1

Name _____

Demonstration	4	3	2	1	0
New information	4	3	2	1	0
Facts	4	3	2	1	0
Research	4	3	2	1	0
Over-all project	4	3	2	1	0

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. Students should make every effort to complete assignments on time in order to allow other students opportunity to have receptive practice using the student's samples. Late completion of lab assignments will result in a lowered grade for those assignments. If students are absent on the day of a scheduled exam (with a valid excuse), the test may be made-up. Students are responsible for scheduling a make-up exam with the instructor. (Make-up exams should be scheduled as soon as possible after the student returns to class.)

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When you are absent it is your responsibility to:

- Check BrightSpace and GoReact for handouts/assignments, etc.
- Consult with another student on missed notes and information
- Turn in the current day's assignment, as well as assignments due on the day(s) you were absent
- All of the handout material from your instructor are on Brightspace and GoReact.
- You may make an appointment with the instructor during office hours for additional individual assistance.
- Understand the instructor can not "catch you up" on missed class information during class.

ATTENDANCE: To earn course credit in the ITP, MCC, a student must attend at least 75% of all scheduled class meetings. Any student who does not meet this minimal standard will automatically receive a grade of "F" in the course. Any college-related activity necessitating an absence from class shall count as an absence when determining whether a student has attended the required 75% of class meetings. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

I certainly want students to enjoy class, and I welcome and encourage appropriate and pertinent questions, comments and discussion. I also encourage professional, mature behavior.

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.

Students should demonstrate courtesy and respect to all instructors, guests, and fellow learners. While honest discussion and debate of topics is expected and encouraged, such interactions should not involve aggressive, derogatory, or hostile behaviors (verbal or otherwise). The instructor reserves the right to act to protect the decorum of the learning environment and the image of MCC.

DEVICES: All use of cell phones, smart phones, and other mobile communication devices is prohibited in class. This is an entirely visual class which requires you to be watching at all times. Any such devices used during class will be kept for you at the front of the classroom until the end of class.

OUR CLASSROOM IS AN ALL-VISUAL, ASL ENVIRONMENT. LEAVE YOUR VOICE OUTSIDE THE DOOR. NO TALKING, WHISPERING, OR MOUTHING WORDS ALLOWED ONCE YOU ENTER THE CLASSROOM.

The Student is expected to:
Attend class and be on time
Attend to GoReact and Brightspace activities

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Ask questions when you do not understand

Adhere to Deaf Culture Norms

Participate fully in class activities in class and on GoReact.

Complete all assignments on or before due date

Be patient

Have expressive exam tapes completed by dates assigned

Refrain from using your voice or interpreting for other students who may not understand instructor

If you find yourself struggling in class, PLEASE see me ASAP. You may contact tutoring services at MCC. I can give you ideas and suggestions for reviewing the material and improving your performance, but I can't help you if you don't come see me. Please don't wait until it's too late. You do not want to fall behind in this class. Catching up is very difficult to do due to the pace of the course.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES for INTERPRETER TRAINING:

Student Learning Outcomes for the program and the courses in which they are primarily measured are indicated in this matrix:

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Course Number: <u>SLNG 1321</u> Course Name: <u>Introduction to the Interpreting Prof</u>	Relevant Competencies (Identify by Competency Number)
SCANS COMPETENCIES.	
1. Managing Resources: a. Manage time b. Manage money c. Manage materials d. Manage space e. Manage staff	a. c, g b. f c. b, c, g d. e, g, h e. c, h
2. Exhibiting Interpersonal Skills: a. Work on teams b. Teach others c. Serve customers d. Lead work teams e. Negotiate with others f. Work with different cultures	a. g, h b. a, c, g, h c. c, d, e, f, g d. f, g, h e. g, h f. all
3. Working with Information: a. Acquire/evaluate data b. Organize/maintain information c. Interpret/communicate data d. Process information with computers	a. a, b, e, f, g, h, i b. c, d, e, f, i c. d, e, f, g, h d. j, k
4. Applying systems knowledge: a. Work within social systems b. Work within technological systems c. Work within organizational systems d. Monitor/correct system performance e. Design/improve systems	a. a, d, g, h b. b, j, k c. d, f, g d. g, h e.
5. Using Technology: a. Select equipment and tools b. Apply technology to specific tasks c. Maintain/troubleshoot technologies	a. c, g, j b. j, k c.
SCANS FOUNDATIONS.	
6. Demonstrating Basic Skills: a. Reading b. Writing c. Arithmetic/Mathematics d. Speaking e. Listening	a. a, b, c, d b. c, d, h, i c. f, g, d. f, g, h e. f, g, h
7. Demonstrating Thinking Skills: a. Creative thinking b. Decision making c. Problem solving d. Thinking logically e. Seeing with the mind's eye	a. f, h b. g, h c. f, g, h d. d, f, g, h, k, e.
8. Exhibiting Personal Qualities: a. Individual responsibility b. Self-esteem c. Sociability d. Self-management e. Integrity	a. c, g, h, i b. c, g, h c. f, g, h d. c, g e. c, h

McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.