

This project aims at enhancing undergraduate students' knowledge related to sign languages and Deaf communities through building up self-learning online modules for the university general education course "UGED 2923 Exploring Sign Languages and Deaf Communities". This is an important undergraduate course that broadens students' horizon on language and its multi-faceted modalities. As sign language makes crucial use of the visual-manual channel, audio-visual presentations are essential for the teaching of concepts and ideas related to sign language. The use of e-learning techniques and micro-modules is thus useful in promoting teaching effectiveness and enrich students' learning experience. Also, as Deaf signers are a linguistic minority, most university students taking this course have never met a Deaf person themselves before or do not have much experience interacting with Deaf people who communicate through the visual-gestural linguistic channel. Six micro-modules are designed to reduce the possible difficulty caused by this lack of background knowledge. The following aspects are covered: common misconceptions against Deaf people, relation between hearing people's gestures and natural sign languages, issues involved in raising a Deaf child, sign bilingualism and inclusive education, history of Deaf education, and Deaf culture. Through studying the videos of the micro-modules before class, students could acquire essential background knowledge of the related content, thus maximizing their in-class learning.