

2013

# ASLN 101-01 Elementary American Sign Language I

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**Xavier University**  
**Department of Modern Languages**  
**American Sign Language**  
**ASLN 101 – Summer 2013**

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**Phone:** Dept. of Modern Languages at 745-3464. Leave message with Pam Rose, secretary; **OR 771-7600 x342**  
**Office hours:** MWTH – 5:45-6:00 PM, after class, or by appointment **Course Location:** CLC 404  
**Course Dates/Times:** MWTH, 6:00 PM – 8:15 PM; May 13 – June 21, 2013 **Prerequisites:** N/A

**Required Text:** VISTA Signing Naturally, Level 1 student workbook and videotext by Smith, Lentz and Mikos

Welcome to Xavier's first level course in the visual language of American Sign Language (ASL). This elementary sign language class is designed to provide a foundation for beginning signers wishing to study ASL and learn about Deaf culture. An overview of syntax, grammar and Deaf culture is provided.

**Course Objectives:**

Students who satisfactorily complete this course should be able to:

- Develop use of basic signs in context of a conversation.
- Develop manual alphabet and number sign skills.
- Combine signs, numbers and fingerspelling into meaningful ASL, in both expressive and receptive communication modes.
- Learn the linguistic and cultural material in the text, Units 1-6, and course presentations
- This course fulfills one or more requirements of the Core Curriculum, by supporting the following student learning outcomes:
  - Students will interact with sensitivity as members of society and as professionals with people who have ideas, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that are different from their own
  - Students will communicate in a foreign language and to read and interpret cultural materials related to the language studied
  - Students will consider perspectives of diverse groups when making decisions
  - Students will describe contributions made by individuals from diverse and/or underrepresented groups to local, national, and global communities

**Blackboard/email:**

- A) Use of Blackboard is REQUIRED.
  - a. Print and keep all of the documents listed under COURSE CONTENT in our class.
  - b. Check your grades often.
- B) Check your XU email often OR have your Xavier email address forward emails to a personal email that you DO check often. This is my main method of contact with you outside of class.
- C) If you cannot access or print from Blackboard, contact the Xavier Help Desk for assistance.
- D) I typically check my Xavier email daily, but if you want to reach me more quickly, you can use my St. Rita email ([rhardesty@srsdeaf.org](mailto:rhardesty@srsdeaf.org)), as it goes directly to my phone. My direct phone line during the day is 513-771-7600, x342. You can leave a voice mail if I am unavailable.

**Course Requirements:**

Any language requires practice and study; students are expected to attend **all** classes and be one time. **Attendance** is taken in each class.

- Participation in all class activities and dialogues is required in order to effectively learn the language.
- It is impossible to learn Sign Language on your own outside of class. Missing a class will set you considerably behind.
- Attendance policy :
  - 1) You have ONE Unexcused Absence per semester/term that does not count against you
  - 2) Additional Excused Absences (i.e. valid reasons for missing class) include: family bereavement, medical reason, or legal reason - you must bring in proof of the reason for the absence in order for it to be excused. You are STILL responsible for learning the material that

was taught while you were absent. **NO TESTS WILL BE MADE UP IF YOU MISS CLASS, REGARDLESS OF THE REASON.**

3) Additional unexcused absences: Traveling for work, family vacations, conflicts with other classes or labs, school-related meetings, and illnesses without a doctor's note are NOT excused. Emailing me about your absence does not excuse you from class, although I appreciate the courtesy.

4) Being late to class is disruptive & disrespectful. Two tardies or two early departures = one unexcused absence.

5) Student Athletes: it is *your responsibility* to let me know when you will be absent. Giving me a schedule pre-season not enough - you need to remind me the day before any sport's absence so I can mark your following absence as excused.

**Participation** in class is mandatory. You must use your hands and practice the signs in class. Students are expected to do the following, for every class:

- Pick up your hands and COPY the signs that the instructor shows you
- USE those new signs independently to answer questions from the instructor
- PRACTICE those new signs in small group activities with other students
- COMBINE those new signs into short sentences and phrases to ask and answer more complex questions in class.

If you do all of the above, you will become much more comfortable signing, and will comprehend the material much more quickly. You'll also find it easier to participate in lab, and to interact with the Deaf community for class assignments.

Finally, rude and/or disruptive students may be asked to leave the class if they cannot control themselves and stay on topic in classroom discussions and small group activities. This class can be a lot of fun, but not if I have to compete with disruptive students for the class' attention. Please focus on the assigned topic, turn your cell phones OFF, and have fun learning to sign!

## **2) Papers/Assignments:**

- All assignments must be handed to the instructor on the due dates OR emailed by 11:59 PM on the day it is due. *I am not responsible for cyberspace black holes that swallow up your email attachments.* Ask for a confirmation back from me to be sure I received it. If I don't get it by 11:59 PM, it is late.
- Late assignments will be penalized 10 points of assignment grade for each class date late.
- If you have are absent on a day that an assignment is due, the assignment is still due on the assigned day. You can send it in to class with someone else, or email it to me, or turn it in to me early if it is a planned absence.

## **3) Language use:**

**The target language (ASL) must be used in class.** You are NOT ALLOWED to speak in English or use your voice during class, unless given permission to do so. Students are expected to respect this language and culture. Unnecessary voicing in class will result in points lost. There will be an opportunity for questions at the end of each class.

## **4) Five Unit Tests**

**There are NO make-up tests.** There are 5 tests (units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5), of which the lowest grade is dropped. If you miss a test, that will be the one dropped from your average. Because tests are signed "live" by the instructor, it is impossible to leave the test with another department for make-up. Therefore, dropping a test grade allows for unplanned absences on test dates. **You do not have the option of keeping all 5 test grades in order to get extra points – the lowest test grade MUST be dropped.**

On test days, you may NOT leave after the test – the class will continue with the next unit after everyone has completed the test. Since this class meets only 17 times over the 6 weeks summer term, we have to cover a lot of material in each class (basically 1 unit per week), so the class does continue after each test.

If you arrive late to class on a test day, you can take the remainder of the test that I have not yet finished signing to the class. This may allow you to earn partial credit. However, you will not be able to make-up any portion of the test that you missed prior to your arrival. If you arrive so late that I have already completed signing the test (even if the class itself is still in session), then you have missed that test and will receive a zero for your grade. This policy is in effect for all 5 unit tests as well as for the final exam.

**You CANNOT make-up the Final Exam or take it on a different day/time. The final exam will be given at the regular class day and time during Finals Week. The final exam CANNOT be the test grade that you drop.**

#### **5) Community Activity & Paper:**

- You are required to attend one event in the Deaf community, and attempt to interact with Deaf individuals at this Deaf event, using ASL. List of sample events is posted on Blackboard.
- After attending the event, a 3-page typed report on the activity must be turned in by the due date. In the paper, be sure to list the name of the event, the date you attended and where it was held, and names of any Deaf individuals you interacted with. Discuss your experience and opinion of the event. Be as detailed as possible, especially regarding how you felt during the experience.
- Do not wait until the last week, as events are not always consistently offered in the Deaf community. Do not procrastinate!
- If you have contact with the Deaf community in other areas outside of Cincinnati and want to attend an event there, please check with me first to make sure it is an appropriate event.
- Remember, this is a short 6-week class, so plan your event early!

#### **6) Research Paper**

- Research a topic related to deafness, ASL, or Deaf Culture
- Write a research paper on the chosen topic
- Minimum of 5 typed pages, double spaced, with a separate bibliography page
- At least 3 sources. Use of books or professional journals is recommended. Professional internet resources are also accepted as long as they are cited correctly and are recent and reputable. (Do not use someone's blog, Wikipedia, or Facebook page as a source!)
- You will present your papers in class. (You can add visual media if you want to) **YOU MUST SIGN THE INTRODUCTION**, and then tell the class in English about your topic (5-7 minute summary)
- Accepted topics will be posted on Blackboard. See professor for permission if you want to research something that is NOT on the approved topic list.

#### **7) Workbook:**

- While workbook exercises are NOT turned in for a grade, they do help you review outside of class
- Read all assigned material and complete video workbook exercises for units 1-6.
- Review the signs for the assigned unit BEFORE each class to help you prepare for class.
- The workbook was written in 1988, and ASL (much like English) has added many new words/signs since then. Therefore, **NOT ALL OF THE VOCABULARY WE LEARN WILL BE IN THE WORKBOOK!** Come to class to learn all of the vocabulary you need to know for assignments and tests.

#### **8) ASL Live Lab**

- You are required to attend THREE hours in the ASL Live Lab prior to the end of the semester.
- Submit a 2 page reflection paper sharing your thoughts and experiences in the lab. Using first person is appropriate, as you should be speaking directly about your experiences during lab time. No points for the lab will be given if either the final reflection paper or your Lab Card are not turned in.
- The lab dates and location will be posted on Blackboard when they become available.
- **For full credit (100 points), you must attend all 3 hours of the lab.** Partial credit will be given

for less than 3 hours, as follows:

- Full credit (3 hours of lab) = 100 points
- 2 hours of lab = 66 points
- 1 hour of lab = 33 points
- 0 lab hours = 0 points
- Get your Lab Card sheet stamped for every session that you attend to verify your attendance. I STRONGLY recommend that you complete your lab hours early in the semester to avoid getting caught short at the end of the semester – don't get stuck at the end of the semester with no time left!!
- Steve Phillips conducts each Live Lab session, and he keeps track of your attendance through the Lab Cards. If you forget to bring your Lab Card to lab or forget to get it stamped, email Steve to correct this – he is in charge of lab attendance, and is the ONLY person who can verify or correct your attendance. His email is [aslcoolguy@yahoo.com](mailto:aslcoolguy@yahoo.com).
- Your lab time will be geared toward 101 students. All students will be required to follow the rules of the live lab.
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- Protocol for Live Lab:
  - No cell phones/texting allowed.
  - No talking to neighbors/side conversations allowed. ASL only. Talking in lab is taking advantage of the fact that Steve is deaf and cannot hear you – VERY RUDE & DISRESPECTFUL! There will be hearing “proctors” in lab, and they WILL report you for doing this. You will not receive credit for labs in which you are reported for talking.
  - Participate during lab times in order to obtain credit for the lab session. Sitting and watching everyone else does NOT count. Steve Phillips will notice and tell me!

#### 9) Final Project - Dialogue:

- All students will be assigned a partner from their class.
- You and your partner will complete a dialogue (conversation) in ASL, using a script given in class
- Videotape your dialogue and turn into professor by the due date – burn to disc, bring to class on flash drive, or upload to YouTube and email me the link. If it is a private link, make sure I have access to it. Do NOT email the video itself – Xavier's email server probably won't let it through.
- You may NOT substitute your “dropped” test grade for this project.

#### 10) Final Exam

- Final exam will be given on the last day of class – June 20, 2013
- Format for final will be the same as the unit tests, but will be cumulative (Units 1-6).
- Unit 6 will be incorporated into the Final Exam instead of being tested separately.

#### Typing requirements for all Assignments/Papers:

All typed assignments must meet the following guidelines or points will be deducted:

A) **Title page must be separate from text of paper.** Do NOT put your name, date or other information on the first page of text – put it on a separate cover sheet. The first page of text should begin at the top of the paper and be a full page length.

B) **Bibliography information** (for the research paper) should be on a separate piece of paper at the end of your paper. The bibliography and cover sheet are not included in the length requirements of the paper.

C) All papers are to be double spaced, 1 inch margins on all sides, 12 pt font, Times New Roman.

D) Use spellcheck and grammar check. English is your native language, so you should be proficient in writing in that language. If you struggle with written English, use the Writing Center!

E) **Do not add extra space between paragraphs. Do not use the period trick!!!**

## **Course Evaluation:**

5 in class tests (unit 1 – 5) – 75 points each (drop lowest) = 300 points  
Community activity & paper - 100 points  
ASL Live Lab & reflection paper – 100 points  
Research paper – 100 points  
Attendance/Participation – 75 points  
Final Project (Dialogue with Partner) – 75 points  
Final exam (Receptive) - 150 point

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## **Total Points Over Course of Semester: 900**

A = 93 – 100% (837–900 pts)	B- 80 – 82.9% (720-746 pts)	D+ = 68 – 69.9% (612-629 pts)
A- 90 – 92.9% (810-836 pts)	C+ = 78 – 79.9% (702-719 pts)	D = 63 – 67.9% (567-611 pts)
B + = 88 – 89.9% (792-809 pts)	C = 73 – 77.9% (657-701 pts)	D - = 60 – 62.9% (540-566 pts)
B = 83 – 87.9% (747-791 pts)	C- 70 – 72.9% (630-656 pts)	F = below 59.9% (539 pts or less)

## **Course Schedule:**

5/13 Welcome, syllabus, and introduction to Unit 1 & Deaf Culture  
5/15 Deaf History Discussion & Documentary – *Through Deaf Eyes* (1<sup>st</sup> half)  
5/16 Unit 1 review- Test Unit 1- Begin Unit 2  
5/20 Unit 2, Deaf Culture – Technology for the Deaf  
5/22 Deaf Culture Documentary – *Sound and Fury*; Class Discussion  
5/23 Unit 2 review- Test Unit 2- Begin Unit 3  
5/27 NO CLASS – MEMORIAL DAY  
5/29 Unit 3; Deaf History Discussion/Documentary–*Through Deaf Eyes* (Gallaudet U., DPN)  
5/30 Unit 3 review- Test Unit 3. Begin Unit 4  
6/3 Unit 4; Pass out Final Project Scripts & Choose partners  
6/5 Unit 4; Deaf Culture Documentary – *Sound and Fury* – 6 years later; Class Discussion  
6/6 Unit 4 review- Test Unit 4, Begin Unit 5  
6/10 Unit 5; **Deaf Community Participation Paper Due**  
6/12 Unit 5 review- Test Unit 5; Begin Unit 6  
6/13 Unit 6 and review  
6/17 **Research Papers due & presented in class (14 people = 5-7 minutes per person)**  
6/19 Cumulative Review (Units 1-6); **Live Lab Reflection Paper Due; Video Dialogue Due**  
6/20 Final Exam in class

## **Academic Integrity Policy:**

The University Rules, including the Student Code of Conduct, and other documented policies of the department, college, and university related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violation of these regulations, including acts of plagiarism or cheating, will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct.

## **Special Needs Policy:**

If you have any special needs related to your participation in this course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the instructor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. At the discretion of the instructor, some accommodations may require prior approval by Disability Services. It is YOUR responsibility to notify the instructor of your need for accommodations, prior to the first test.

**Syllabus and Course Schedule subject to change at any time.**