

2015

ASLN 101-01 American Sign Language

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Recommended Citation

Fausnaugh, Timothy, "ASLN 101-01 American Sign Language" (2015). *Modern Languages Syllabi Fall 2015*. Paper 5.
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Xavier University
Department of Modern Languages
American Sign Language
ASLN 101
Fall Semester, 2015

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am to 9:50 am, 10 am to 10:50 pm in CLC 405.

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). It includes principles, methods and techniques for communicating with deaf individuals who sign. The focus is development of receptive and expressive sign skills, manual alphabet, numbers and sign vocabulary. An overview of syntax, grammar and culture is provided.

The study of a language other than your own is invaluable in today's globalized world. Study of a foreign language also helps you to better understand your own language as you draw comparisons about grammatical structures and etymology. In reaching at least high beginning proficiency, you will find yourself able to communicate basic information in uncomplicated situations, and/or to read uncomplicated texts in another language. Though you may not realize it until later, you will also achieve greater facility with your own language, and your empathy for others from different linguistic backgrounds will grow.

You must have an XU account (an e-mail account that ends with xavier.edu) and access to Canvas in order to receive course information and announcements. If you cannot access the course material, you cannot successfully complete this course. Enrollment in this course requires you to read, understand, and follow the procedures and policies below. Please be advised that this course has an attendance policy. If you are prone to miss class often, then this is course may not be what you want to take.

Course Objectives:

Students who satisfactorily complete this course should be able to:

Develop use of and expand knowledge of signs in context.

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 and course readings.

Complete units 1 - 6 in required text.

Will be able to communicate with deaf individuals on a beginner level

This course fulfills requirements and goals of the Core Curriculum and helps students achieve the following Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes:

GOAL 1: Students will be effective communicators in writing and orally

Student Learning Outcomes for Goal 1 of the Core Curriculum:

1. Students will organize and express their ideas in writing and orally

In this course, students will effectively communicate to peers using the skill of ASL. Students will translate manual sign language into written sign language during unit exams and during daily class exercises. The receptive exam at the end of the semester will test students' manual and verbal fluency in a level-appropriate manner.

GOAL 6: Students will be aware global citizens

Student Learning Outcomes for Goal 6 of the Core Curriculum:

6. Students will communicate in a foreign language and read and interpret cultural materials related to the language studied

In this course, we will continuously practice and evaluate communication, both visual/manually and through the use of written glossing, in American Sign Language.

Canvas/email:

A) I submit all grades via the Canvas grading system. You are able to view your current grade in this class at all times throughout the semester.

B) I email information about our class on a regular basis. Be sure you have your Xavier email address

forwarding emails to a personal email or check your XU email on a regular basis. I also attach multiple items to your emails that you are required to print and bring to class. If you do not check your email you will miss information and required papers for class.

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and participation:

A language requires practice and study; students are expected to attend **all** classes. You are expected to be on time to class. Participation in class activities and dialogues is required along with completion of exercises in class workbook. In order to effectively learn the language, you must participate in all activities asked of you in class. Every minute you are late effects your ability to understand the language and interrupts the concentration of the others in class. It is also rude and disrespectful to both the instructor and class if you are late. Attendance will be taken each class.

Attendance is mandatory for this class. Due to the nature of the curriculum, it is impossible to learn outside of the class setting. All information related to the course is explained and taught during class times. Therefore, missing a class will set you considerably behind. Please review the attendance policy below:

- 1) Your first absence is excused
- 2) Each additional absence (void of valid excuse/proof of absence) will result in a 10 pt. decrease from your participation/attendance grade.
- 3) Being late to class is unacceptable. Two tardies = one absence, resulting in a 10 pt. decrease from your participation/attendance grade.
- 4) If you are involved in sports, it is your responsibility to make me aware of the dates you will be absent. Providing me with a schedule pre-season is fine, but you are also required to remind me the day before any sport's absence so I can adequately mark your following absence as excused.

2) Assignments:

- 1) All assignments must be handed to the instructor on the due dates.
- 2) Late assignments will be penalized 15% of assignment grade for each class date late.
- 3) If you have a planned absence due to a sport's activity or other excusable reason, on a date when an assignment is due, the assignment is due the class prior to your absence.
- 4) **Assignments sent via email are not accepted.** Please place assignments in my mailbox in the Modern Languages office (906 Schott Hall) or send assignment with another student to class.

3) Please review your Student Handbook:

2.3.9.1. Academic Honesty (Student Handbook, 107-8)

The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, and the falsification of research results and material.

All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student's own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another's efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own.

Penalties for violations of this policy may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an "F" in the course, and expulsion from Xavier. The Academic Dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all acts of academic dishonesty, although the faculty member has authority to assign the grade for the assignment, test, or course. If disputes regarding the applicability or enforcement of this policy arise, the student, faculty member and department chair should attempt to resolve the issue. If this is unsatisfactory, the Academic Dean of the college will rule on the matter. As a final appeal, the Provost will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.

4) Language use:

It is customary in the Deaf community to show respect by using sign language in the presence of Deaf individuals. And because one of the objectives of this course is for students to learn how to practice the norms and behaviors of the Deaf community, it is an expectation to do so while in class. Therefore, students should limit the use of their voices while in class and stretch their skills by using other, more visual means for communication; such as, signing, gesturing, pointing, body language, facial expressions, writing, drawing, etc.

Excessive use of one's voice during class time will be addressed in the following ways:

1. Verbal warning by the instructor during class.
2. Discussion with the instructor after class about student's disregard for practicing Deaf behaviors.
3. Request to leave the remainder of the class.
4. Reduction of points from final grade.

5) Tests

There are NO make-up tests. There are 6 tests (units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6), 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 by the instructor, it is impossible to leave the test with the registrar's office for make-up. Dropping a test grade allows for unplanned absences on quiz dates.

6) Community Activity:

You are required to attend one event of the Deaf community. During the event, you **MUST** interact with the Deaf person. We will go through this interaction practice in my class so you will feel more comfortable. After attending the event, a 2-3 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. Discuss your experience and opinion of the event. Be as detailed as possible, especially regarding how you felt during the experience. You may attend an event at your convenience; however, attendance and paper **MUST** be turned in no later than the assigned date. Do not wait until the last week, as events are not always consistently offered in the Deaf community. No excuses will be accepted. Do not procrastinate! Specific information regarding the project, as well as options for community activities, will be provided in class. Community Activities **MUST** be completed in Cincinnati.

<http://www.hearingspeechdeaf.com/CommunityServicesfortheDeafCSD.aspx>

7) ASL Live Lab requirement

In order to receive assigned points for the lab requirements, **you must attend 4 hours of the lab.** You will also receive a yellow card from me during the first week of the term. The live lab coordinator, Steve Phillips will stamp your card **AFTER** you complete the live lab sessions. Please keep the yellow card with you at all the times. If you lose the yellow card, you will be required to start all over again. Please let me know if you lose your yellow card. I can give you a new one. Points for the lab will also not be given if the final reflection paper is not turned in. For the reflection paper, please describe your experience and what you learned with Steve in the live lab sessions. The live lab paper should have two pages. See the last page for the lab schedule.

100 points – attend 4 labs
75 points – attend 3 labs
50 points – attend 2 labs
25 points – attend 1 lab
0 points – attend 0 labs

ALL labs will be in CLC building, room 403.

ALL labs held in CLC 403 will have a STRICT limit of 20 students allowed per session. This is not flexible. The reason for this firm limit is strictly due to the size of the room.

Students arriving later than 5 minutes to a lab session will not be permitted to enter. In order to receive the total points for each lab attended, students must arrive on time and must stay for the entire session.

Students are allowed to attend the lab associated with their level of class only. 101 students are to attend only 101 labs, 102 students are to attend specifically 102 labs and 201/202 students combine to attend one time. Students are not to attend labs outside of their class levels.

8) Research Paper and Discussion Board

You will be required to work on a research paper and a discussion post through Canvas regarding a topic about Deafness that will be given to you by your instructor. You must interview one or two persons who have experience with your topic. Upon the completion of the interview and research, you must then discuss your findings in a formal paper. In this paper, you must specify the date; time and give detail explanation of your interview during the period and provide a bibliography of your research. You must also provide two perspectives and explain pros and cons of this topic. You must turn in the summary paper (minimum of 5 typed pages) to obtain credit. You are also required to post a discussion via Canvas and write about your perspective regarding your topic and how it impact the Deaf community. You should also choose two of your classmates' posts and respond to their posts. Your activity during this interview, research and discussion post will reflect your grade. Specific information regarding this project will

be discussed in class. Please refer to syllabus calendar for dates of this project.

9) Workbook:

Read assigned material and complete video workbook exercises (units 1-6). Workbook assignments MUST be completed prior to attending the class (see homework explanation on class schedule). The expectation is that you become aware of the material, via your videotext and workbook, prior to each class. I will assume that you are familiar with signs that were assigned in the workbook for each class session. Failure to complete the workbook and videotext exercise will greatly affect your grade and your ability to understand the material. Please bring the workbook with you to **each** class.

10) Typing requirements:

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. All information aside from body of paper is to be included 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 is to be included on a separate piece of paper to be included 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 font, Times New Roman.
- D) **Do not add extra space between paragraphs.**
- E) I know the period tricks!

11) Deaf Forum Discussion Paper:

The date for the Deaf Forum will be announced soon. The forum will include members of the Deaf community discussing topics related to the Deaf Studies. You MUST attend one of these sessions and participate in the discussion to get credit. We will have an interpreter present to help keep the communication flow smoothly. You will have an opportunity to give comments and ask questions through the microphone. Please do NOT plan any work arrangements or any events on that date. After attending one of the sessions, a 3-page paper must be turned in by the due date. You are to explain in detail what you learned from the discussion.

Course Evaluation:

6 in class tests (unit 1 – 6) – 75 points each (drop lowest)= 450 points
Community activity - 75 point attendance of activity/25 points paper
ASL Live Lab – 100 point
Research Paper and Discussion Board - 100 points
Deaf Forum Discussion Paper – 100 points
Attendance – 75 points

Exam:

Final receptive exam - 200 points
Total: 1,125 points

Grading:

Course grades are given according to the University grading system, including the use of +/- grades.

Grading:

A = 93 - 100%

A- = 90 - 92.9%

B+ = 88 - 89.9%

B = 83 - 87.9%

B- = 80 - 82.9%

C+ = 78 - 79.9%

C = 73 - 77.9%

C- = 70 - 72.9%

D+ = 68 - 69.9%

D = 63 - 67.9%

D- = 60 - 62.9%

62.4% and below = failing

Class Schedule - Please see calendar attached

Fall 2015 Lab Schedule:

9/7 Monday

1:00 - 2:00 = 101

2:00 - 3:00 = 101

9/9 Wednesday

4:00 - 5:00 = 101

5:00 - 6:00 = 101

9/13 Sunday

4:00 - 5:00 = 101

5:00 - 6:00 = 101

9/14 Monday

2:00 - 3:00 = 101

9/17 Thursday

6:00 - 7:00 = 101

9/22 Tuesday

4:00 - 5:00 = 101

5:00 - 6:00 = 101

9/23 Wednesday

1:00 - 2:00 = 101

2:00 - 3:00 = 101

9/27 Sunday

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

9/ 29 Tuesday

7:00 – 8:00 = 101

10/1 Thursday

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

10/4 Sunday

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

10/5 Monday

2:00 – 3:00 = 101

3:00 – 4:00 = 101

10/11 Sunday

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

7:00 – 8:00 = 101

10/13 Tuesday

4:00 – 5:00 = 101

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

10/14 Wednesday

2:00 – 3:00 = 101

3:00 – 4:00 = 101

10/19 Monday

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

10/20 Tuesday

1:00 – 2:00 = 101

2:00 – 3:00 = 101

10/21 Wednesday

4:00 – 5:00 = 101

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

10/26 Monday

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

10/28 Wednesday

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

10/29 Thursday

1:00 – 2:00 = 101

2:00 – 3:00 = 101

11/1 Sunday

4:00 – 5:00 = 101

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

11/3 Tuesday

2:00 – 3:00 = 101

11/5 Thursday

1:00 – 2:00 = 101

2:00 – 3:00 = 101

11/10 Tuesday

1:00 – 2:00 = 101

11/12 Thursday

1:00 – 2:00 = 101

2:00 – 3:00 = 101

11/15 Sunday

4:00 – 5:00 = 101

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

11/16 Monday

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

11/18 Wednesday

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

7:00 – 8:00 = 101

11/22 Sunday

4:00 – 5:00 = 101

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

11/23 Monday

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

12/1 Tuesday

1:00 – 2:00 = 101

12/2 Wednesday

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

12/6 Sunday

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

7:00 – 8:00 = 101

12/7 Monday –Last lab

5:00 – 6:00 = 101

6:00 – 7:00 = 101

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31 Introduction to class ASLN 101, Unit 1	25	26 Unit 1	27	28 Unit 1	29

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	31 Unit 1	1	2 Unit 1	3	4 Unit 1 Test	5
6	7 Labor Day - No Class	8	9 Unit 2	10	11 Unit 2	12
13	14 Unit 2	15	16 Unit 2	17	18 Unit 2	19
20	21 Unit 2 Test	22	23 Unit 3	24	25 Unit 3	26
27	28 Unit 3	29	30 Unit 3			

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Unit 3	3
4	5 Unit 3 Test	6	7 Unit 4	8	9 Fall Holiday – No Class	10
11	12 Unit 4	13	14 Unit 4	15	16 Unit 4	17
18	19 Unit 4	20	21 Unit 4 Test	22	23 Unit 5	24
25	26 Unit 5	27	28 Unit 5	29	30 Unit 5	31

November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Unit 5	3	4 Unit 5 Test Community Activity Paper Due	5	6 Unit 6	7
8	9 Unit 6	10	11 Unit 6	12	13 Unit 6	14
15	16 Unit 6	17	18 Unit 6 Test	19	20 Final Exam Review Research Paper Due	21
22	23 Final Exam Review	24	25 Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class	26	27 Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class	28
29	30 Final Exam Review					

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Final Exam Review Research Discussion Board Due	3	4 Final Exam Review	5
6	7 Final Exam Review	8	9 Final Exam Review Live Lab Paper Due	10	11 Final Exam Review	12
13	14	15	16 Final Exam: 10 am class only – 10:00 – 11:50 am	17	18 Final Exam: 9 am class only – 8:00 – 9:50 am	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		