

2016

ASLN 101-03 American Sign Language

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Recommended Citation

Nsumbu, Alphonse, "ASLN 101-03 American Sign Language" (2016). *Modern Languages Syllabi Fall 2016*. 6.
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Xavier University
Department of Classics and Modern Languages
Elementary American Sign Language ASL 101-03/04
Fall Semester 2016

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus.

Instructor: ALPHONSE Kiombo Nsumbu, M.A.

E-mail: nsumbuk@xavier.edu

Office Hours:

MWF: 11:00am-12:00pm

T/TH: 4:30pm-5:30pm

705 Schott Hall

REQUIRED TEXT: VISTA Signing Naturally level 1, Student Workbook and Videotext by Smith, Lentz and Mikos. (1992) Dawn Sign Press.

Course Description:

The first course of beginning level series in the visual, gestural language of American Sign Language (ASL) is designed to offer an overview of linguistic, cultural, and sociolinguistic information regarding ASL while developing communication skills, both receptive and expressive. An understanding of culture and identity of the deaf community will be incorporated into this course both face-to-face and through technology.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate expressive and receptive understanding of ASL based on the material covered and respond appropriately. 2. Students will discuss, in ASL, facts and significant events in small and larger groups and through face to face and using current technology used in the Deaf community. 3. Students will participate in the Deaf Community through the use of ASL and with knowledge of Deaf culture. 4. Students will reflect on the language learning process and their own progress.

E-mail/Office Hours:

You must use your **XU e-mail account** to contact the instructor regarding your concerns and grade. I will respond to your emails within 48 hours during weekdays and 72 hours during the weekend. **When you email the instructor, please include inquiry, your class and day in subject line. Ex (presentation, 101 Wed 6:30).** If there is an emergency situation that warrants the need to cancel class, I will send an e-mail to you. **You are responsible for contacting your fellow students regarding any missed work during your absence.** If you do not know anyone, make a friend.

Academic Honesty (from XU's handbook):

"The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life require a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration document, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation.

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.

Penalty for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a **zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from the University.** The Dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all such incidents, though the teacher has full authority to assign the grade for the assignments, test, or course. If disputes of interpretation arises, the student, faculty member, and chair should attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this is unsatisfactory, the dean will rule in the matter. As a final appeal, the academic vice president will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.”

Course Expectations

Attendance:

Attendance is very crucial to learn American Sign Language. Learning a language requires continuous practice and study. This is true for ASL, given the visual aspects of the language. Learning ASL through one or two-dimensional materials such as a book or video is no substitute for the immediate and interactive nature of a classroom environment with a native or native-like user of ASL.

You are allowed to miss only 3 classes (excused or unexcused). Arriving late and leaving early are not accepted because they are disruptive to class. Arriving late and leaving early and/or two late arrivals/early departures will count as one absence. 10 points will be deducted from your attendance for each additional absence. If you are prone or plan to miss a lot of classes, it is not the right class you want to take. It would be best if you drop or withdraw from the class. Excessive absences will result in a failing grade for the entire course.

Classroom Etiquette

Use of voice in the classroom is strictly prohibited. Students must abide by the rule. If you want to talk to the teacher or your fellow students, you **MUST** use sign language at all times. In the classroom, you are not allowed to use your electronic devices such as laptop, tablet, iPad, cellular phone, ... etc. Your devices must be turned off and put in your bag prior to entering the classroom. If you use your electronic devices in class, you will be asked to leave the classroom. You are expected to conduct yourself in a manner, which demonstrates respect for the Deaf culture, instructor, and fellow classmates.

Community Forum:

You are required to attend one community forum on campus. The forum will consist of members of the Deaf community discussing topics related to the field of Deaf studies. You must attend one session at your convenient time. After attending the forum, you must write a one page reflection paper on the experience. The day/time and room for the forum will be assigned at a later date.

Community Event:

You are to attend one activity in the Deaf Community, not just an interpreted event. You **MUST** interact with Deaf people. My recommendation is to attend a silent dinner at the mall on the 1st Friday of the month. After attending the silent dinner, type a 2 page reaction paper on the experience. You must spend at least 1 hour of observation or conversation with Deaf individuals. I will keep you updated on events as I become aware of them.

Deaf Lab:

You are required to attend 4 hours of Deaf lab on the XU campus during the semester. This is an important part of your understanding of how ASL is used. The lab will meet in CLC 403. There are over 60 scheduled labs. You are given plenty of time to plan, so there are no excuses for not being able to attend 4 labs during the course of the entire semester. Lab dates and times change throughout the semester. Sunday labs are offered in order to accommodate your schedules. You are responsible for keeping your yellow sign in sheets. If you attend 1, 2, 3 or 4 labs and lose your yellow cards, you will have to start over. If you lose your yellow card the first time, the instructor will be willing to give

you another one. If you lose your card the second time, the instructor will not give you another card again, meaning that you will get a zero for the lab. Always check to make sure you have a yellow card with you before going to the lab. If you forget your yellow card, do not go to the lab because you will receive no stamp. When you go to the next scheduled lab, you will only get one stamp the day you attend, not the day you previously attended.

Research Paper:

One (1) research paper will be assigned to you during the semester. **Research Paper must be written in MLA format.** It must be 4 typed pages in length. The first page of text must begin at the top of the paper and be a full page length. Title page, other information and works cited must be separate from text of paper. You are required to do your research with **ONE book** and at least **2 websites or URLs (NO WIKIPEDIA PLEASE)**. Please remember that MLA style requires you to cite, quote, and paraphrase *within the* document. If you are unsure of how to appropriately do that, go to the library for more information.

(Although this is an American Sign Language class, your first language is English. This Research Paper is to be written in proper American English, correctly formatted, spell-checked, proofed, and must follow current written American English standards. Points will be deducted for misspellings, grammatical and format errors as well as for not using a book and writing your research paper correctly.

Your research paper will be about Deaf culture in the United States or in other countries. Deaf culture is broad. You will need to pick a topic to narrow your focus in order to better write your paper. Here are some examples of topic to think about: Sign Language as a Second Language, Oral School for the Deaf, Cochlear Implant...etc. Explore and report your findings in regard to the Deaf culture. Your paper must not be simply a summary or regurgitation of information. You must argue and evaluate the sources in providing concrete examples and evidence to support your claims/assertions. Your research paper must be an **argumentative research**. The paper must have a **thesis clear statement** in the introductory paragraph, the body and conclusion that reflects the thesis statement.

Videos, papers, homework assignments:

All assignments must be completed on time in order to receive your credits. **If you plan to miss a class for whatever reason on a date when an assignment is due, the assignment is due in class prior to your absence.** Given the interactive nature of this class, and the extra work required of instructor, **late assignments will not be accepted.**

Typed assignments:

When you turn in the typed assignments, please use the following standard:

1. 1 ½ pages in length, **2.** Times **New Roman**, **3.** Font 12, **4.** Double spaced, **5.** One inch margins, **6.** No excessive space between paragraphs, or title. Points will be deducted for not adhering to the standard. The assignments must have introduction, body and conclusion.

Tests/Exams:

There will be NO make-up tests/exams. There are 6 unit tests, of which one lowest grade will be dropped. **If you miss a test for whatever reason, please do not ask me to make it up.** The test you miss will be the one dropped from your average. Because exams are signed by the instructor, it is impossible to leave the exams with the registrar's office for make-up.

Workbook:

You are required to read assigned materials and complete video workbook exercises (Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). Workbook assignments **MUST** be completed prior to attending the class (see assignments due on class schedule). Late homework assignments will not be accepted.

Expressive Exam:

The students record themselves signing from a script or outline provided by your instructor that includes content from all units. Your video conversation must be a minimum of 5 minutes. The videos must be submitted to canvas under the discussions section on the due date.

Your performance will be assessed based on your ability to:

1. Produce signs correctly (e.g. handshape, palm orientation, movement and location)
2. Produce non-manual signals correctly (facial expression, posturing, body language, head shift, eyebrow movements, etc.)
3. Produce signs clearly (e.g. crispness, pace, fluidity)
4. Make correct sign choices (e.g. conceptual accuracy)
5. Incorporate ASL grammatical features (e.g. use of spatial organization, number incorporation, inflection, classifier use, etc.)

Receptive written Exam:

Exam questions will be based on previous tests, cultural and linguistic information and class discussion. The instructor will sign and students will write the answers.

Course Evaluation

A	=	93 –100%	C	=	73-76%
A –	=	90 – 92%	C-	=	70-72%
B+	=	87 – 89%	D+	=	67-69%
B	=	83 – 86%	D	=	63-66%
B –	=	80 – 82%	D-	=	60-62%
C+	=	77 – 79%	F	=	0-59%

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance	50
Research paper	50
Deaf Forum Paper	50
Community Event Paper	50
Lab Hours	100
Homework (5 @ 20)	100
Tests (5 @ 100)	500
Receptive Final	200
Expressive Final	200

TOTAL **1300**

Class Schedule

Due Assignment

Aug 22	Introductions & syllabus	
Aug 24	Vocabulary Unit 1	
Aug 26	Unit 1	
Aug 29	Unit 1	
AUG 31	Unit 1	
Sept 2	Unit 1	
Sept 7	Unit 1	
Sept 9	Test Unit 1	
Sept 12	Vocabulary Unit 2	Workbook 1
Sept 14	Unit 2	
Sept 16	Unit 2	
Sept 19	Unit 2	
Sept 21	Unit 2	
Sept 23	Test Unit 2	
Sept 26	Vocabulary Unit 3	Workbook 2
Sept 28	Unit 3	
Sept 30	Unit 3	
Oct 3	Unit 3	
Oct 5	Unit 3	
OCT 6-7 (FALL BREAK)		
Oct 10	Unit 3	
Oct 12	Test Unit 3	
Oct 14	Vocabulary Unit 4	Workbook 3
Oct 17	Unit 4	
Oct 19	Unit 4	
Oct 21	Unit 4	
Oct 24	Unit 4	
Oct 26	Test Unit 4	
Oct 28	Vocabulary Unit 5	Workbook 4
Oct 31	Unit 5	
Nov 2	Unit 5	
Nov 4	Unit 5	
Nov 7	Unit 5	Research Paper
Nov 9	Unit 5	

Nov 11	Test Unit 5	
Nov 14	Vocabulary Unit 6	Workbook 5
Nov 16	Unit 6	
Nov 18	Unit 6	
Nov 21	Unit 6	
Nov 23	Unit 6	
Nov 24-27	(THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS)	
Nov 28	Unit 6	
Nov 30	Test Unit 6	
Dec 2	Review Unit 1-2	
Dec 5	Review Unit 3-4s	Deaf Event
Dec 7	Review Unit 5-6	
Dec 9	Final Exam	Lab
Dec 12	Final Exam 101 2pm class @ 2pm-250pm	
Dec 14	Final Exam 101 1pm class @ 12pm-150pm	