

2016

ASLN 201-01-02 American Sign Language

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XAVIER UNIVERSITY
Department of Classics and Modern Languages
American Sign Language ASLN 201-01/02
Fall Semester 2016

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus.

Instructor: ALPHONSE Kiombo Nsumbu

E-mail: nsumbuk@xavier.edu

Office Hours:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 11:00am-12:00pm

Tuesday/Thursday: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Room 705 Schott

REQUIRED TEXT: VISTA Signing Naturally level 2, Student Workbook and Videotext by Smith, Lentz and Mikos. (1992) Dawn Sign Press.

Course Description and Objectives

This is a second level course in the visual, gesture language of American Sign Language (ASL). This course is designed to offer an overview of linguistic, cultural, and sociolinguistic information pertaining to ASL. This course will provide students with knowledge of basic signs used in a daily life in order to help students:

1. Develop use of signs in context, fingerspelling techniques and number sign skills.
2. Use signs, numbers and fingerspelling in meaningful ASL.
3. Have experience in both expressive and receptive communication modes.
4. Learn the linguistic and cultural material in the course readings and class presentation.

"As a student attending a Jesuit Institution whose motto includes "men and women for others," you should strive to become a responsible global citizen. Language and culture are inextricably connected, and therefore the geography, history and language of a society shape its culture. At some point during your first two or three years at Xavier, you will immerse yourself in a culture and language other than your own through intermediate-level study of a language, which will lead to greater cross-cultural competency, language proficiency, sensitivity, appreciation, and engagement."

E-mail/Office Hours:

You must use your **XU e-mail account** to contact the instructor if you have any concerns about your grade, progress or do not understand presented course materials in class. I will respond to your emails within 48 hours on weekdays and 72 hours on the weekend. **When you email the instructor, please include inquiry, your class and day in subject line. Ex (presentation, 201 Monday 2:00pm).** If there is an emergency situation that warrants the need to cancel class, I will send an e-mail to you. If you have questions about assignments, upcoming Deaf events or grades, please check the syllabus before sending an e-mail to the instructor. My e-mail address is on the front of this syllabus. You are responsible for contacting your fellow students regarding missed assignments during your absence.

2.3.9.1 Academic Honesty (from XU's Student Handbook, 107-8):

"The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional lives 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."

Voice and electric devices

Using voice in the classroom is strictly prohibited. If you want to talk to the teacher or your fellow students, please use sign language at all times. Points will be taken off for voicing in class. You are not allowed to use electronic devices in class. This includes but is not limited to tablets, iPads, laptops, smartphone, cell phones, music sources, head phones...etc. Your devices must be turned off and put in your bag before you enter the classroom. You are expected to abide by the rule and conduct yourself in a manner, which demonstrates respect for the Deaf culture, instructor, and fellow classmates. The instructor reserves the right to ask a student to leave the classroom if electronics are being used in class.

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory. Attending all classes is a key to successfully improving your expressive and receptive American Sign Language skills. You are allowed to miss only 2 classes (excused or unexcused). 10 points will be taken off from your attendance for each additional absence. Excessive absences will result in a failing grade for the entire course. Arriving late and leaving early are not accepted because they are disruptive to class. Two late arrivals/early departures will equal one absence.

Tests

There will be NO make-up tests. You will take 3 tests and your lowest grade of the three will be dropped resulting in the final grade calculation that reflects the two high test scores. If you miss a test for whatever reason, please do not ask me to make it up. The test you miss will be the lowest grade dropped.

Video and Typed assignments

All assignments must be submitted on the due dates. 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. Late assignments will not be accepted. All papers must be double spaced, Times New Roman, font 12 and 1 inch margins on all sides. Points will be deducted for not adhering to the standard.

Please do not add extra space between paragraphs. I know the period trick! *****

Deaf Event

You are to attend one activity in the Deaf Community, not just an interpreted event. You must interact with Deaf Individuals. My recommendation is to attend a silent dinner at the mall usual-

ly held the 1st Friday of the month. You can also attend Deaf Coffee Chat at Starbucks coffee in Rookwood on the 3rd Saturday of the month. You must spend at least 30 minutes of conversation with Deaf individuals. You **MUST** bring a piece of paper signed by a Deaf person with whom you chat, or you can take a picture with her/him and bring it to class as proof of your attending the Deaf event. You will receive a zero for not bringing the signed paper or photo on or before the due date. **Attend an event in the Cincinnati area only.** You will get no credit if you forget to bring the signature or photo to class. No discussion!

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.

Book Report:

You are to write a book report with a partner during the semester. You are required to read one-three chapters of a book related to the topic of deafness (30 page minimum). You will type a 3 page report on the chapter of the book you read. The report should include a summary paragraph of the book in the introduction. In the body, explain and give details of what you read and in the conclusion explain briefly about what the insights you gained from the book about what it is like to be d/Deaf and how d/Deaf people are perceived, and whether or not you would recommend this book to a fellow classmate, family and friends and why. The report must contain introduction, body and conclusion. Turn in your paper to the instructor in class on the due date. Late paper will not be accepted. To write the paper, use the following standard: Times New Roman, font 12, double spaced, one-inch margins. Points will be deducted for not adhering to the standard. *Your book report is to be written in proper American English, spell-checked, proofed, and must follow current written American English standards.* Points will be deducted for misspellings, grammatical errors.

Workbook and Video Assignments:

There will be one video assignment during the semester. You will tell us about your personal history. Here is the following narrative sequence of your personal history: 1. Tell when and where you were born, 2. Tell about life events by referring to age, event, year sequence, and unexpected changes and 3. End with current situation. Send me your videos via canvas under the discussions

section. The video must last a minimum of 3 minutes. Submit your videos via canvas under the discussion section on the due date.

You will also be required to read assigned materials and complete video workbook exercises (Units 13, 14, 15). Workbook assignments **MUST** be completed prior to attending the class (see assignments due on class schedule). No late homework/video submission will be accepted.

Presentation:

There will be one presentation during the semester. You will present the floor plan and arrangement of a room. You will design your own floor plan and room for your presentation. The floor plan must consist of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 hall, 1 living room, 1 family room, 1 dining room, and 1 kitchen. A room must have at least 10 objects. When presenting the arrangement of a room, be sure to use all classifiers correctly. Your presentation will be filmed in class for grade purposes. You are to do a 3 minute presentation.

Final Project:

You will do a Deaf joke video in ASL. Many Deaf jokes can be found on the internet. Google and find a copy of Deaf joke that you will use for your final project. The length of the Deaf joke video must be **a minimum of 5 minutes**. Points will be reduced for not telling the joke in 5 minutes. Your performance will be graded based on appropriate inclusion of ASL sentence structure, ASL grammatical syntax, facial expressions, ASL parameters, vocabulary, and fluency.

Receptive Written Exam:

Exam questions will be based on vocabularies from all units, previous tests, cultural and linguistic information and class discussion. The professor will sign and student will write the answers.

Community Forum:

Every fall semester, Xavier hosts a community forum on campus. All students in every sign language class are required to attend the forum. The forum will last approximately 1 to 1.5 hours and consist of members of the deaf community discussing topics related to our field of study. Students will have the opportunity to comment and ask questions through the use of microphones. An interpreter will be utilized in the forum. After the forum, you are to write 2 pages of reflection paper on the forum.

Video, presentation and final project grades:

Your performance will be graded 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)

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance	50	points
Deaf Event	50	points
Video Assignment	100	points
Book report	50	points
Workbook	50	points

Deaf Lab	100	points
Presentation	100	points
Community Forum	50	points
Tests (2 at 200)	400	points
Final project	200	points
Receptive Exam	200	points

TOTAL	1350	points
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Grading:

Your cumulative grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

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%

ASL 201 Tentative Schedule

Due assignment

AUG 23 Introductions & Syllabus

AUG 25 Vocabulary Unit 13

AUG 30 Unit 13

SEPT 1 Unit 13

SEPT 6 Unit 13

SEPT 8 Unit 13

SEPT 13 Unit 13

SEPT 15 Unit 13

SEPT 20 Unit 13

SEPT 22 **TEST Unit 13**

SEPT 27 Vocabulary Unit 14

SEPT 29 Unit 14

Workbook 13

OCT 4 Unit 14

OCT 6-7 **(Fall Break)**

OCT 11 Unit 14

OCT 13 Unit 14

Book Report

OCT 18 Unit 14

OCT 20 **Presentation**

OCT 25 **Presentation**

OCT 27 Unit 14

NOV 1 Unit 14

NOV 3 **TEST Unit 14**

NOV 8 Vocabulary Unit 15

NOV 10 Unit 15

Workbook 15

NOV 15 Unit 15

NOV 17 Unit 15

Video Assignment

NOV 22 Unit 15

NOV 24-27 (THANKSGIVING)

NOV 29 Unit 15
DEC 1 TEST Unit 15
DEC 6 Review
DEC 8 Final Exam
DEC 14 Final Exam

Workbook
Deaf Lab