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ASLN 101-04 Elementary American Sign Language I

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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. 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.

**Required Text:**

VISTA, Signing Naturally, Level I Student Workbook and Videotext by Smith, Lentz, and Mikos.

**Course Objectives:**

Students who successfully 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.
- Gain an understanding of Deaf culture in addition to basic language.
- Complete Units 1 – 6 in Signing Naturally
- Communicate basic to intermediate conversational patterns with deaf individuals

**Course Requirements:**

- **Attendance and Participation:** A language requires practice and study. Students are expected to attend all classes. 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. You are expected to be on time to class. Every minute you are late affects 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. Therefore, missing a class will set you considerably behind. Please review the attendance policy below:

  1) Your first absence is excused, no proof of reason for absence required.
  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 class prior to any sport’s absence so I can adequately mark your following absence as excused.
  5) If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a student in your class to obtain information lost from absence. At the beginning of the course, please take information needed from a peer in order to contact them upon absence. Please do not contact the Instructor unless to inform me of your absence.
Email Response Time: Professors and students are expected to utilize the XU email system. There is a 24 hour weekday response time and a 48 hour weekend response time for emails. Students as well as professors are expected to respond to emails by abiding by the above listed guidelines.

Communication Devices: Use of any electronic devices (smart phones, cell phones, etc) in the classroom is strictly forbidden. Please turn off your electronic devices before entering the classroom. If you must utilize your electronic device, please excuse yourself from the classroom in order to do so.

Language: The target language (ASL) must be used in class. Speaking in English by using your voice during class is not permitted, unless otherwise directed by your Instructor. Students are expected to respect the language (ASL) and culture (Deaf). Unnecessary voicing in class will result in a reduction in points (5 points per class from your final cumulative grade). If a student voices during a test, his/her test will be given a F. Only the directed language is to be used during class – at all times.

Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, which demonstrates respect for the Deaf culture, professor, and fellow classmates. Inappropriate or disruptive behavior or that which violates the syllabus, XU Student Code of Conduct or infringes upon the educational experience of others may result in student dismissal from that class session.

Assignments: All assignments must be handed to the instructor on the due dates. Late assignments will be penalized 15% of assignment grade for each class date late. 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. 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.

Tests: There are NO make-up tests. There are 6 tests, of which the lowest grade is dropped. If you miss a test, which 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 test dates. Also, remember that missing a class, whether there is a test or not, will result in points deducted from your class participation grade.

Community Activity: You are required to attend one event of the Deaf community. After attending the event, a 2 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, 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.

ASL Lab Hours: You are required to attend Four (4) hours in the ASL Live Lab, prior to the end of the semester. Upon completion of the 4 lab hours, please submit a 2 page reflection paper sharing your thoughts and experiences in the lab during your 4 hours of lab time. Using first person is appropriate, as you should be speaking directly about your experiences during the 4 hours. Be sure to follow all typing requirements as stated in the syllabus.

The lab requirement is worth a total of 125 points include Reflection Paper. These points include the submission of the required reflection paper. The breakdown is as follows:
- Attend four labs = 100 points
- Attend three labs = 75 points
- Attend two labs = 50 points
- Attend one lab = 25 points
- Attend no labs = 0 points
- Reflection Paper 25 points

The Lab Schedule will be post on blackboard.
Research Project: You will be required to research a topic related to deafness and write a research paper on the chosen topic. The length of the research paper is to be a minimum of *5 typed pages, double-spaced. A PowerPoint presentation will is also required. More information will be given in class.

*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 trick. *****

Workbook: Read assigned material and complete video workbook exercises (units 1-6). Workbook assignments must 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. You must bring your workbook with you to each class.

Course Evaluation:

Lab Hours: 25 points – 4 hours total + Reflection Paper 125 points
Community Activities 100 points
Quizzes (6 @ 75 – one (1) lowest dropped) 375 points
Research Project 150 points
Attendance 75 points
Exam 150 points

Total: 975 points

Course Evaluation Continued:
XU Withdrawal Policy: http://www.xavier.edu/summer/programs/Summer-Calendar.cfm
Academic Integrity Policy and Plagiarism: http://www.xavier.edu/williams/mba/offsite-programs/Policies-Procedures.cfm
Special Needs Policy: http://www.xavier.edu/lac/student-disability-services.cfm
Tentative Course Schedule:

- **8/27** Welcome!  Introductions/expectations/syllabus/Fingerspelling
- **8/29** Fingerspelling/Numbers/Unit 1
- **9/3** Unit 1
- **9/5** Fingerspelling/Numbers/Unit 1 Test
- **9/10** Unit 2
- **9/12** Unit 2
- **9/17** Unit 2 Test
- **9/19** Unit 3
- **9/24** Unit 3
- **9/26** Unit 3 Test
- **10/1** Sound and Fury Movie/Discussion
- **10/3** Sound and Fury Movie/Discussion
- **10/10** Unit 4
- **10/15** Unit 4
- **10/17** Unit 4
- **10/22** Unit 4 Test
- **10/23** Fall Deaf Forum 4:00pm & 6:00pm
- **10/24** Unit 5
- **10/29** Unit 5
- **10/31** Unit 5
- **11/5** Unit 5 Test
- **11/7** Unit 6
- **11/12** Unit 6
- **11/14** Unit 6
- **11/19** Unit 6 Test
- **11/21** Research Project Presentations
- **11/26** Research Project Presentations
- **12/3** Research Project Presentations
- **12/5** Research Project Presentations
- **12/10** Final Review  Community Activity Due/Lab Reflection & Sheet Due

*This syllabus is subject to change; dependent on the pace of the class, the schedule might change.*
*If you miss a class, be sure to contact another student for any possible changes.*