

2016

## ASLN 101-01 American Sign Language

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**Xavier University**  
**Department of Modern Languages**  
**American Sign Language**  
**ASL 101 Fall 2016**

**Instructor:** Patricia (Trish) Hutchinson, Adjunct Instructor

**e-mail:** hutchinsonp2@xavier.edu

**Phone:** Cell (513) 349-7738 (text only, please).

**Office hours:** N/A: If you need to meet with me, please text or email me and I will set a time to meet with you.

**Prerequisites:** none

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

*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 course may not be what you want to take.*

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 of this class is the development of receptive/expressive sign skills, manual alphabet, numbers and sign vocabulary. An overview of syntax, grammar and culture is provided.

**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.

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

**This course fulfills requirements and goals of the Core Curriculum and helps students achieve the following Core**

**Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes:**

Student Learning Outcomes for Goal 1 of the Core Curriculum

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

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

*In this course, students will effectively communicate to peers using the learned skill of ASL. Students will translate manual sign language into written sign language during unit exams and during daily class individual/group exercises.*

Student Learning Outcomes for Goal 5 of the Core Curriculum

GOAL 5: Students will be integrated individuals who articulate a coherent, ethical perspective on the world and their place in it

3. Students will use information and resources responsibly in their communication and research

Note: Syllabus and Course Schedule is subject to change.

*In this course, students will use information and resources responsibly while obtaining research data and information required for completion of the course Research Project requirement. Students are required to obtain research through visitation of facilities associated with their research topic.*

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. You are expected to check for emails pertaining to our class on a regular basis.

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **1) 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 effects your ability to understand the language and will interrupt 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.

#### **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.

#### **3) Tests:**

There are NO make-up tests. There are 6 tests, 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. Because we drop the lowest test grade, this allows for unplanned absences on test dates. Also, remember that missing a class, weather there is a test or not, will result in points deducted from your class participation grade.

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#### **4) Community Activity:**

You are required to attend one event of the Deaf community. After attending the event, a 3 page typed report (double spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman font), 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.

While attending the event you must do the following:

- 1) Stay at the event for a minimum of one hour.
- 2) Interact with at least 3 different people, getting their names and additional information about them to include in your paper.
- 3) Community Activity must be an event held in the Cincinnati area. Events attended outside of Cincinnati will not be accepted.

Check the announcements or calendar on the Hearing Speech & Deaf center of Greater Cincinnati website. Click on CSD Services for the Deaf (CSD), and click on the weekly updates for events.

#### **5) ASL Live Lab requirement**

You are required to attend **Four** hours in the ASL Live Lab, prior to the end of the semester. Upon completion of the 4 lab hours, please submit a 3 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.

There is a strict limit of only 20 students allowed in each lab session. At the beginning of the semester, the labs will be less crowded. As the semester progresses, the labs become increasingly more crowded. Once 20 students are in lab, additional students will not be permitted into the lab. There are absolutely no excuses allowed for lab situations, especially if you are locked out of labs due to procrastination.

The lab requirement is worth a total of 100 points. 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

You will be issued one yellow sign in form at the beginning of the semester. You are required to bring the yellow card to each lab you attend in order to receive a stamp on the card for attendance. If you lose the yellow card, you will be issued another one. However, no labs attended prior to receiving a second sign in card will count. You will forfeit all labs previously attended.

The lab schedule will be given to you separately and will also be under the Files tab on Canvas.

Note: Syllabus and Course Schedule is subject to change.

### **6) Deaf Forum Discussion Paper:**

The forum will include members of the Deaf community discussing topics related to Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community. You **MUST** attend the session and participate to receive credit. We will have an interpreter present to help facilitate communication smoothly. You will be granted an opportunity to give comments or ask questions. Please arrange your schedule accordingly, so you will attend the forum session. After the forum, you will type a 3-page reflection paper regarding to what you learned from the forum. The date of the forum has yet to be determined at time of typing this syllabus and will be announced at a later date.

### **7) Research Project:**

Students will conduct a semester-long research experience based upon a topic chosen at the beginning of the semester. Unlike an internet researched based experience, this project will require you to interact directly with people related to your topic. In addition, you may need to visit and tour facilities in order to gain information for your paper. At the end of the semester, you will present your 6 – 8 page paper along with a PowerPoint presentation presented to the class on your research findings. More specific information about this project will be given out during the first few weeks of the semester.

### **8) Classroom Electronic Devices Policy:**

The use of electronic devices such as but not limited to cell phones, laptops, or tablets during class is **strictly prohibited**. You may use any of the aforementioned devices prior to and after class but during class, these devices must be either **powered down or set to silent AND be stowed away**. If there is an emergency that requires the use of said devices, please let me know prior to the start of class. If you are caught using any of these devices, the first offence will be a verbal warning. If you are caught a second time, you will be asked to leave the class. Being asked to leave the class more than once will constitute an absence which will then affect your attendance grade.

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### 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.

#### **Grading System and Scale:**

Grades are given according to the University grading system.

ASL Live Lab hours (4 hours)	100pts
Lab paper	25 pts
Community Activity	75pts
Community Activity Paper	25pts
Research Paper/PowerPoint Presentation	125pts
Deaf Forum Attendance	75pts
Discussion Paper	25 pts
Attendance/Participation	75pts
Units 1-6 Tests (100 pts each, drop lowest)	500 pts
Final Receptive Exam	200pts

**Total Points: 1,225**

100-93	A
90- 92.9	A-
88 -89.9	B+
83 – 87.9	B
80 – 82.9	B-
78 – 79.9	C+
73 - 77.9	C
70 – 72.9	C-
68 – 69.9	D+
63 – 67.9	D
60 – 62. 9	D-
62.4 – 0F	

\*\*\* Instructor reserves the right to alter information in this syllabus at any time.

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