2015

ASLN 101-01 American Sign Language

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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.

**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

**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 skill of ASL. Students will translate manual sign language into written sign language during unit exams and during daily class individual and 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

*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 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.

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) Language use:
The target language (ASL) must be used in class. You are NOT ALLOWED to speak in English or use your voice during class, unless you ask permission to do so. Students are expected to respect this language and culture. Unnecessary voicing in class will result in points lost. Only the language of American Sign Language is to be used in this classroom – at all times, including before class and during breaks (You may use your voice outside of the classroom during breaks).

4) Tests:
There are NO make-up tests. There are 5 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. Dropping a test grade 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.

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

In order to look for events, please go to Community Services for the Deaf and look for their events online. We will also discuss options in class.

6) ASL Live Lab requirement
You are required to attend three hours in the ASL Live Lab, prior to the end of the term. Upon completion of the 3 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 3 hours. Be sure to follow all typing requirements as
stated in the syllabus. The lab is open according to the following schedule and will be held in CLC 403.

The lab requirement is worth a total of 100 points. The breakdown is as follows:
Attend three labs = 100 points
Attend two labs = 66 points
Attend one labs = 33 points
Attend no labs = 0 points

**Lab schedule for Summer semester is as follows:**

- Thursday 5/21, 12:00 – 1:00
- Wednesday 5/27, 4:45 – 5:45
- Thursday 5/28, 12:00 – 1:00
- Monday 6/1, 4:45 – 5:45
- Wednesday 6/3 12:00 – 1:00
- Thursday 6/4, 4:45 – 5:45
- Sunday 6/7, 5:00 – 6:00
- Monday 6/8, 12:00 – 1:00
- Wednesday 6/10, 4:45 – 5:45
- Thursday 6/11, 12:00 – 1:00
- Sunday 6/14, 4:00 - 5:00
- Monday 6/15, 4:45 – 5:45
- Wednesday 6/17, 12:00 – 1:00
- Thursday 6/18, 4:45 – 5:45
- Sunday 6/21, 5:00 – 6:00
- Monday 6/22, 12:00 – 1:00
- Wednesday 6/24, 4:45 – 5:45

7) **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 4 typed pages, double spaced. Please see attached information sheet regarding this specific project.

8) **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.

**Course Evaluation:**
5 in class tests (units 1 – 5) - 100 points each (drop lowest) = 500 points
Community activity - 100 points
Live lab participation/reflection paper- 100 points for lab, 25 points for paper
Research project - 150 points
Attendance – 75 points
EXAM - 150 points
Total points: 1100

**Grading:**
A = 93 - 100%
A- = 90 – 92.9%
Class Schedule

**WEEK ONE:**
5/15 – Syllabus discussion, fingerspelling, numbers
5/17 – Unit one
5/18 – Unit one

**WEEK TWO:**
5/22 – **Unit one test including syllabus information**/Unit two
5/24 – Unit two

**WEEK THREE:**
5/29– **Unit two test**/Unit three
6/1 – Unit three
6/2 – **Unit three test**/Unit four

**WEEK FOUR:**
6/6 – Unit four
6/8– **Unit 4 test**/Unit five
6/9– Unit five

**WEEK FIVE:**
6/13 – **Unit five test. Research project due / presentations**
6/15 – Research Project Presentations
6/16 – Unit six

**WEEK SIX:**
6/20 – Unit six
6/22 – Unit six, Exam review, **Community Activity Due**
6/23 – Exam – **Lab paper due**

Research Project information:

1. National Technical Institute for the Deaf
2. Gallaudet University
3. Baby sign language * (attempt to observe class)
4. Deaf theatre
5. Sign language interpreting – education, qualifications, certification, testing, jobs (must interview working interpreter).*
6. N.A.D – National Associations of the Deaf
7. Big D deaf culture vs. little d deaf culture
8. Educational options for the deaf – residential vs. mainstream
9. Technology for the Deaf: TTY’s alarm clock, captioning, video relay etc. (tour St. Rita’s to see technology)
10. Hearing loss levels, audiograms, hearing aids (visit audiologist)
11. Careers associated with hearing loss: speech pathologists, audiologists
12. Koko the signing gorilla
13. Famous deaf people: Marlee Matlin, Curtis Pride, Dummy Hoy, Heather Whitestone (must do all 4)
14. Cochlear Implants
15. Ohio Valley Voices (oral school)
16. Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati
17. Deaf art – artists, poets, music (Chuck Baird)
18. International sign languages and deaf cultures outside of US (must choose 3)
20. Ball State Deaf Education program
21. Starkey Foundation

Requirements:
1) There are two parts to this project:
   a) The main paper. Must be a minimum of 4 pages. Follow all typing guidelines as stated in the syllabus.

   b) Each person will give a power point presentation of your research project to the class. Must be a minimum of 5 minutes, no longer than 7 minutes long. You may include video as part of your presentation but video can be no longer than 2 minutes of the 5 – 7 minute limit. Videos built into the presentation are strongly encouraged as a way to teach your topic.

2) You MUST speak to someone related to your topic during your research. Personal interviews, emails conversations or phone conversations are required. Tours of facilities and visits to particular places are required for topics listed above that have a * at the end of the topic.

3) This is a research projects. All research must be documented using standard research tools and documentation protocol. Endnotes are expected. Internal documentation during the body of the paper is also expected. Internet sources are acceptable for this project but must be documented. You must have a bibliography.

4) If possible, please obtain literature/pamphlets/documents from research to pass around to the class during your presentation. This is not required but is quit helpful for your classmates.