2015

ASLN 201-02 American Sign Language

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**XAVIER UNIVERSITY**
**Department of Classics and Modern Languages**
**American Sign Language ASLN 201-02**
**Fall Semester 2015**

_The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus._

Instructor: ALPHONSE Kiombo Nsumbu
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**Office Hours:**
Monday/Wednesday: 9:30am-10:30am
Friday: 9:30am-10:30am by appointment only
Room 705 Schott


**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. **When you email the instructor, please include inquiry, your class and day in subject line. Ex (presentation, 201 Wednesday 3:00pm).** If there is an emergency situation that warrants the need to cancel class, I will send an e-mail to you. You can also make an appointment to come to my office hours or just walk in if you need to see me. If you have questions about assignments, upcoming Deaf events or grades, please check the syllabus and canvas 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.
**Academic Honesty** (from XU’s handbook):

“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 Classroom Etiquette**
The non-voice rule must be strictly enforced. Using voice in the classroom is not permitted. Each of you is to abide by the rule. If you want to talk to the teacher or your fellow students, please use sign language *(ASL)*. You are not allowed to use your cellular phone. Your device must be turned off before you enter the classroom. If there is an emergency situation that requires you to use your phone, please excuse yourself from the classroom in order to do so. You are expected to conduct yourself in a manner, which demonstrates respect for the Deaf culture, instructor, and fellow classmates. Points will be taken off for using voice and phone.

**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). If you miss more than 2 classes for whatever reason, your final grade will be affected. With excessive absences, you will automatically receive 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. 10 points will be taken off from your attendance for each additional absence.

**Tests**
There are 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.

**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,
Deaf Event
You are to attend one activity in the Deaf Community, not just an interpreted event. You should interact with Deaf people. My recommendation is to attend a silent dinner at the mall usually 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. **Attend an event in the Cincinnati area only.** You will not get no credit if you forget to bring the piece of signed paper or photo to class. No discussion!

Deaf Lab
You will work with Steve Philips in the Deaf lab on the XU campus. This is an important part of your understanding of how ASL is used. You are required to attend 4 Labs. The lab will meet in CLC 403. There are ample opportunities for you to go to 4 out of 33 scheduled labs, so take advantage of these opportunities to attend and complete your lab hours. 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 and Sunday labs are offered as well in order to accommodate your schedules. You are responsible for keeping your yellow sign in sheets as the instructor will not tolerate having to copy cards for you. If you attend 4 labs and lose your yellow cards, you will have to start over and the instructor will be willing to make a copy of another card for you. Before going to the lab, be sure to check if you have a yellow card with you. If you forget your yellow card at your dorm/apt, do not go to the lab because you will receive no stamp from the lab instructor. When you go to the next scheduled lab, you will get only one stamp on your yellow card the day you attend. The instructor will not copy cards for you the second time you lose them. Means you will get a zero points for the lab.

Book Report:
You are to write a book report with a partner during the semester. You are required to read one-three chapters of an approved book relating to the topic of deafness (30 page minimum). Please send an e-mail to the teacher if you have a book in mind. 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 a detail 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. Late assignments will not be accepted.

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/submission will be accepted.

**Presentation:**
There will be one presentation during the semester. You will present the layout of a house (floor plan) and the arrangement of a room. The teacher will give you a floor plan and room for your presentation. When presenting the arrangement of a room, be sure to use all classifiers correctly. Your presentation will be done and filmed in class for grade purposes. You are to do a 2 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. Forums will last approximately 1 to 1.5 hours. Students will know the date of the forum at the beginning of the semester so they can plan their schedules accordingly. Forums will consist of members of the deaf community discussing topics related to our field of study. Students will have opportunities to comment and ask questions through the use of microphones. An interpreter will be utilized in the forum. After the forum, you are to work with a group of 4 or 5 students to write 3 pages of a 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 25 points
Tests (2 at 200) 400 points
Final project 200 points
Receptive Exam 200 points

TOTAL 1275 points

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

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

ASL 201 Tentative Schedule

AUG 26  Introductions and syllabus
AUG 28  Vocabulary Unit 13 PP.20-33
SEPT 2   Unit 13
SEPT 4   Unit 13
SEPT 9   Unit 13
SEPT 11  Unit 13
SEPT 16  Unit 13
SEPT 18  Unit 13
SEPT 23  Test Unit 13
SEPT 25  Vocabulary Unit 14  Workbook
SEPT 30  Unit 14
OCT 2    Unit 14
OCT 7    Presentation
OCT 8-9  (Fall Break)
OCT 14   Unit 14
OCT 16   Unit 14  Book Report
OCT 21   Unit 14
OCT 23   Test Unit 14
OCT 28   Vocabulary Unit 15  Workbook
OCT 30   Unit 15
NOV 4    Unit 15  Video
NOV 6    Unit 15
NOV 11   Unit 15
NOV 13   Test Unit 15
NOV 18   Final Project
NOV 20   Final Project
NOV 25-29 (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)
DEC 2    Review Unit 13  Community Event
DEC 4    Review Unit 14
DEC 9    Review Unit 15  Deaf Lab
DEC 11   Last Day of Class
DEC 18   Final Exam Friday at 2:00pm-3:50pm