

ASL

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1 & 2

COURSE SYLLABUS

ASL Lecturer: Dana Hoover

Date: Summer 2018

Office hours: Either by appointment or after class

EMAIL: dh1A@hampshire.edu

COURSE NUMBER: ASL I and II

Class hours/location: typically, 930am-12:30pm, break, then 1:30pm-4:30pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION: American Sign Language I and II both are introducing non-signers to the handshape, palm orientation, location, and movement of common signs, as well as the linguistic principles of ASL. In this course we will examine the sign lexicon and basic concepts about the structure and use of ASL. We will stress grammatical features along with syntax and structure. The course will examine Deaf culture, history, values, social norms, and how they play an important role in the Deaf community. To appreciate and respect Deaf culture, you must understand the signed language. Students will learn appropriate cultural behaviors such as directing and maintaining attention, and a way of talking that keeps others informed. This course is appropriate for students who have no knowledge of Sign Language to the point where they can function comfortably in a wide variety of situations in the Deaf Community. The course of study will focus on vocabulary and sentences for introducing oneself, exchanging personal information, talking about surroundings/giving directions, telling where you live, talking about your family, and telling about activities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students will learn to appreciate and respect ASL as a living, unique and wholly naturally occurring language, and recognize Deaf people as a community with their own set of cultural traditions and values. Students will become familiar with Deaf culture, history, folklore, and community. After taking the course, students should have and be able to learn and use basic sign language.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. Communication

1. Grammatical Features

- a. Students will demonstrate mastery of target, content-specific commands, questions, and statements in ASL, both non-manual behaviors and manual signs.
- b. Students will be able to sign and comprehend short dialogues/complete short sentences in ASL as directed by the instructor.

2. Vocabulary Development

- a. Given a set of targeted vocabulary items derived from Units 1-6 , of *Signing Naturally*, and videos, students will show mastery of vocabulary items through class activities and assessments.

3. Conversational Skills

- a. Students will demonstrate comprehension and conversation facilitating behaviors.
- b. Students will demonstrate comprehension and production of regulating behaviors (i.e. attention getting techniques, turn taking signals, and others)
- c. Students will demonstrate comprehension of short narratives and stories in ASL told by the instructor.

B. Cultural Awareness

1. Students will gain an understanding of American Sign Language as indigenous to Deaf culture through the use of print resources and videos.
2. Students will observe, identify, discuss, and use simple patterns of behavior for interacting in various settings, such as classroom activities, videotexts, the use of resources, etc.
3. Students will observe, identify, discuss, and use appropriate communication strategies for greeting and leave-taking, attention getting, and use of names (i.e., name signs) in classroom activities.
4. Students will join a tour at American School for the Deaf in CT and Deaf events in MA. More details will be shared in class.

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:

Smith, Cheri; Lentz, Ella Mae and Mikos, Ken, **Signing Naturally**, Student Workbook, Units 1-6 and 2 DVDs, San Diego, CA: Dawn Sign Press, 2008.

<https://www.dawnsign.com/store>

Pens and Papers

Link to textbook videos/documentaries (Hampflix): tv.hampshire.edu

COURSE OUTLINE:

- Unit 1: Introducing oneself
- Unit 2: Exchanging personal information
- Unit 3: Talking about where you live
- Unit 4: Talking about Family
- Unit 5: Talking about Activities
- Unit 6: Storytelling

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation: It is essential that students make every effort to attend every class on time and be prepared to participate in class activities. Attention to classroom

activities is imperative. Behaviors such as reading newspapers, using pagers/cell phones, laptops, or doing homework for another class will not be tolerated. You are required to bring your Signing Naturally student workbook to every class.

Attendance Policy: You should plan to attend class faithfully because the material covered in class and participation in class discussion are vital to your performance in this course. Attendance will be taken every class. It is your responsibility to check periodically with the teacher to make sure you and your teacher are in agreement on your number of absences.

Method of Instructions: Our classes are conducted in American Sign Language (ASL). The teacher will use gestures, signs, drawings, and act out situations to get the point across and your job is to keep trying.

No Talking Policy: We insist on maintaining a signing environment at all times in the classroom for two reasons; One, it is considered rude and insulting to talk in front of a Deaf person and not make the information passing between you and the other person accessible. It is imperative that you develop the habit of signing when Deaf people are present. Secondly, this is an immersion class, which means only the target language is used. Using only ASL helps you to develop both your comprehension skills and your expressive skills quickly and effectively. Talking disrupts this process and delays your language development. If a fellow student asks you for help, feel free to help by using signs you have learned or by writing back and forth. In this way, I can see what is being said and can join in to help, if needed be. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class.

GRADES/EVALUATIONS ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Thorough preparation (in-class and out-of-class, plus class preparedness and class participation, completed homework); and Attendance: Evaluation of your in-class receptive and expressive signing skills – Participation is a must! It is urgent to attend every class for this course. Why? American Sign Language is a visual language. It is best to learn ASL in real time class. You will need to bring your workbook to every class to share your answers. – **25%**
- In class ASL presentations (more details will be shared in class) – **25%**
- Three quizzes (Unit 1 & 2; Unit 3; Unit 4) + (receptive portions): Professor will communicate the series of questions in ASL, and students are to write/draw their answer in English.– **25%**
- One final expressive presentation project to be shown front of an audience. The expressive project will include choosing vocabularies from Unit 1 to 5 to produce an ASL narrative story. - **25%**

Course Schedule –

Week One and Two - Introduction; Syllabus; Deaf Awareness Quiz; Unit 1 to 3

Week Three – Unit 4

Week Four – Unit 5 and Final expressive group presentation.

INTEGRITY OF SCHOLARSHIP:

"Honesty in all academic work is expected of every student. This means giving one's own answers in all class work, quizzes, and examination without help from any sources not approved by the instructor. Written material is to be the student's original composition. Appropriate credit must be given for outside sources from which ideas, language, or quotations are derived."

OTHER INFORMATION:

Changes in syllabus and assignment sheet may be modified as deemed appropriate. All changes will be announced in class.

Any student who is unable, because of his religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study, or work requirement which he may have missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examination or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school.

Faculty evaluations will be completed online at the end of the semester