Bellevue College

American Sign Language 121
Winter 2010

Syllabus

Instructor: Alex Young

Class: Mon/Wed 3pm-5:10pm, L220

E-mail: ayoung@bellevuecollege.edu

Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Required Texts: Signing Naturally:Level I, Smith/Lentz/Mikos

Course Description: ASL 121 is a beginning American Sign Language course and is designed to develop receptive, expressive, and conversational proficiency in the language. Emphasis is placed on appropriate language and cultural behavior in various situations with students learning core vocabulary and basic grammar in context of communicative activities. The students are also introduced to basic information about the deaf community and culture.

Course Objective: At the completion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate basic receptive and expressive competence in ASL. Communicative activities and topics include but are not limited to during the course:

*Understand each unit: Chapters 1-4
*Understand the grammatical and syntax principles in ASL: yes/no and wh-questions, real world orientation, non-manual markers, noun-verb
pairs, possessive pronouns, negative responses, and time signs

*Understand the current issues concerning deaf culture and community

**Course Policy:**
You can achieve efficient survival skills by total immersion in ASL, therefore, there is a “no voice” policy. Please refrain from using your voice the moment class begins. Using your voice is also distracting to other students and very disrespectful of the deaf teacher. Those who violate this voice policy will be warned the first time and if violation occurs again then the individual will be asked to leave the classroom and not return until he/she meets with the teacher, furthermore, this will greatly affect the final grade. 15%-25% will be deducted. General respect of others is expected in class. NO racist, sexist, homophobic, or any other disrespectful remarks will be tolerated.

**Attendance & Participation:**
Regular class attendance and participation will influence your comprehension and speed in learning the language. Because ASL is a visual language, it is important to come to class regularly. You are allowed two absences without penalty for the spring quarter. 1% will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence in excess of two. Tardiness is NOT tolerated and will be recorded. Each total of three tardies will be counted as one absence. Homework=Participation.

**Exams:**
There will be two exams this winter quarter. Each exam will cover two chapters and have three parts.
1. receptive: to test your ability to read and understand signs
2. expressive: to test your ability to produce and use signs and grammatical concepts
3. written: to test your ability to recall assigned readings and discussions in class. For the receptive part, I will sign and fingerspell. For the expressive
part, you will choose a partner in which you both will develop a conversation based on the units you are being tested on and guidelines which the instructor will pass out. The conversation should be between 3-4 minutes. I will let the class know the exam dates in advance. **400 points.**

**Quizzes:** Throughout the quarter, you will be quizzed on Chapters 1 & 2 then Chapters 3 & 4 (2 quizzes). You will also have fingerspelling quizzes every other week. Specific dates will be announced in class. **300 points.**

**Short Paper:** Please choose a famous deaf person that made an impact. You can search on Google. If you need help with names please see me. The paper must be at least one page, typed, double-spaced and include a summary of the individual and your opinions/feelings. **Due: January 20 100 points.**

**Movie Critiques:** The following movies: “Love is Never Silent” and “Children of a Lesser God” will be shown in class. Please type a one page, double-spaced paper with your opinions/feelings and compare/contrast. Please do not explain the movie (I have seen them thousands of times 😊) **Due: One week after movie is shown. 200 points.**

**Deaf Activity:** You will be required to attend at least **TWO** deaf community activities or events. Information will be given out in class. You can use 1 Game Night at BCC for this project. This will help increase your receptive and expressive skills. The more you are involved, the more fluent you become. Events are widespread in the Seattle metro area. I strongly encourage you to go as a group. Please submit a paper with a summary of your experience and include information about the event, date, and location. Share your opinions/feelings (positive and negative) and what you learned. The
must be at least one page, typed, double-spaced, and attach to your paper proof of attendance (i.e., flyer, receipt, brochure, picture). Papers without proof will NOT be accepted. Due: March 10. **200 points.**

**Total Possible Points: 1,200**

**Grading:**

- A: 95%-100%  A-: 90%-94%
- B+: 87%-89%
- B: 83%-87%  B-: 80%-83%
- C+: 77%-79%
- C: 73%-76%  C-: 70%-72%
- D+: 66%-69%
- D: 63%-65%  D-: 60%-62%
- F: 59% and below

I strongly encourage classmates to get together and practice outside of class to maintain signing skills. If you have any concerns or are in need of help please feel free to see me. I am here to help each of you. My goal is that all of you enjoy and pass this course!

**This syllabus is tentative**