



2017-2018 COURSE SYLLABUS

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1

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Room: B13

COURSE FOCUS:

This course will focus on basic ASL and will include the following areas: introducing oneself, exchanging personal information, telling about families, how to get attention, using appropriate cultural behaviors, and making requests. We will also learn about Deaf history and culture.

All instruction and discussion in the classroom will be conducted in American Sign Language (ASL). Although, during the first few days we will need to use voice once the time for practice has begun, please refrain from using your voice in class.

COURSE GOALS:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and accurately produce approx. 500+ ASL vocabulary words/concepts.
2. Provide an explanation of the cultural aspects of ASL as present in the course.
3. Identify and apply the grammatical features of ASL presented in the course.
4. Demonstrate a beginning conversational level of comprehension when communicating in ASL.
5. Demonstrate a beginning conversational level of expressive fluency when using ASL.

REQUIREMENTS:

Textbook: Signing Naturally Student Workbook, Videotape Materials as well as supplemental handouts/materials.

Folder: This will help you organize your handouts, notes, vocabulary review lists and assignments. You need to bring this to class daily. You may leave the folder in the box in the classroom. I will check at the end of each week.

Pencils/pens along with notebook papers are required and should be brought to class each day. It is not fair to other students if you keep borrowing their things.

Ear Plugs: You are encouraged to wear earplugs in class as much as you can in order to experience the 'silent' world of the Deaf. We will also wear it one day a week. This will encourage you to develop better visual skills, which is very important in learning ASL.

Quizzes (20%) & Tests (25% comprehension & 30% expressive):

There will be at least one quiz in each Unit in the book. Some days we will have Pop Quizzes so you must be always be prepared. There will be a Test after each Unit in the book. There will also be a test after each group of Units to help you remember previously learned vocabulary and grammar. There are usually two parts of tests: Comprehension, which is usually signed by the teacher, and, Expressive, which you will sign on topics related to the Unit we, learned. If you missed class on the day of the test, you need to make it up within a week either before or after school.

Participation: (20% overall)

Everyone **MUST** participate in class activities and discussions, as this will be an important part of learning and retaining your skills you previously learned. There are 10 points each day for participating. This is the sure way to

improve your skills! You will be in a group and each time you voice instead of signing, one point will be deducted from the weekly participation points for each time you used voice.

GRADES:

You will be graded on using appropriate cultural behaviors in class especially in the presence of deaf person(s) in the room. You must follow and respect the rules of communication with deaf persons.

You should treat everyone in the room as if they were deaf so this way you will greatly improve your skills. Keep this in mind when you walk in the room. If you do not pay attention to what the teacher or others are saying, you will miss a great deal and get further behind. This will be apart of your participation grade. Using your voice (distracting others) in class will affect your grade.

****If you voiced a lot, you will be asked to “perform” (tell story, or mime something) in front of class at the end of the class**

Participation/Effort	20%
Assignments	5%
Quizzes	20%
Test: Comprehension	25%
Test: Expressive (signing)	30%

ASSIGNMENTS: (5% but this is a lot based on the points each is worth towards your grade! So make sure you do them!)

Article Report: (50 points)

You will read at least 1 article related to Deaf Culture. A separate sheet will be given with specific instructions. You may use the Internet for this. We will all go to the computer room one day to work on this.

Project: (50 individual + 50 group points for a total of 100 points possible)

During the end of each semester, you and a small group will do a videotaped project, which should be unique and creative. This is to ‘show off’ your expressive skills. You will need to prepare for this way in advance to be able to translate into ASL. A separate sheet is attached with specific instructions as to what to include in the project.

Journal: (25 points)

This will be done few times throughout the semester. You are strongly encouraged to write down your thoughts as you learn this unique language as well as what you feel you have learned the previous weeks. You will be given pages to record your thoughts on.

Special Events: (extra credit – 25-50 points)

You should attend at least one or two events where sign language will be used such as plays (interpreted or Deaf), church, or community. You will write a report on the Special Event about your experience there. Your teacher will give you a schedule of events when received. They will also be posted on the bulletin board when your teacher hears of an event you might be able to attend.

Passes: (unused passes = 5 points each at the end of each quarter)

You will have five (5) passes to leave the room any reason per quarter. Should you get “caught” doing things you should not be doing while using a pass, all passes will be forfeit and you will have to wait until the next quarter to try again. **Bonus!!** Any passes you have left at the end of the semester will be counted for extra points in the participation/effort part of the total grade. They are worth 5 points each!