

American Sign Language 1 Syllabus

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Description: This course introduces students to the basics of American Sign Language structure. Students will learn beginning ASL and practice fundamental skill development. A brief overview of Deaf culture will be presented throughout the class. Students will demonstrate cultural and gender sensitivity and will utilize ethical practices.

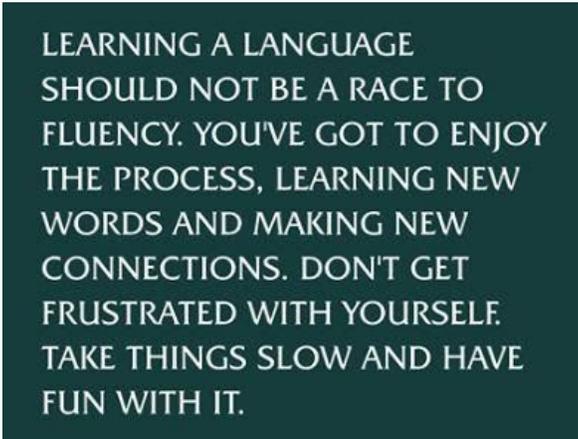
Text: Cheri Smith, Ella Mae Lentz, Ken Mikos. *SIGNING NATURALLY 1*. (Workbook and DVD or internet access account) San Diego, CA: Dawn Sign Press 1993.

Objectives: (The learning targets for this class include the introduction of the following skills & National World language standards from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, often called ACTFL. These standards are called "The 5 Cs"):

1. *Communication.* Students will engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings & emotions as well as exchange opinions. Students will understand a variety of topics. Students will be able to convey information, concepts & ideas for a variety of purposes
2. *Culture.* Gain knowledge & understanding of the American Deaf and Hard of Hearing cultures.
3. *Connections.* Students will connect with other disciplines & acquire information.
4. *Comparisons.* Students will develop insight into the Nature of ASL & the D/HH Culture.
5. *Community.* Students will participate in multi-lingual communities at home & around the USA.

Students should be, logging in to class everyday to review/practice vocabulary.

This is a VERY important concept in ASL:



LEARNING A LANGUAGE
SHOULD NOT BE A RACE TO
FLUENCY. YOU'VE GOT TO ENJOY
THE PROCESS, LEARNING NEW
WORDS AND MAKING NEW
CONNECTIONS. DON'T GET
FRUSTRATED WITH YOURSELF.
TAKE THINGS SLOW AND HAVE
FUN WITH IT.

Student Requirements:

Students must practice/study/work everyday and with a positive attitude!

1. First & foremost, communication with your instructor is KEY! Please email (preferred mode of communication) immediately if you are confused or need help! Please make sure you have read all the directions thoroughly - I work hard to make sure my directions are clear and precise. Most often, the answer to your question can be found in the directions. If this is the case, I will tell you where to find the answer, instead of providing you with the answer. It is my philosophy that when you *find* the answer, you

will remember the content better! Note: Please be respectful of TEXTING. Texts sent after 10:00 pm and prior to 5:00 am on weekdays will not be answered until a more appropriate time. Please be RESPECTFUL and professional when asking questions. It is my goal to prepare you for the real world. Think of me as your work boss - and you as my employees.

2. All email inquiries will be answered within 48 hours. This is the standard for acceptable response times. Please do NOT wait until the last minute to email questions. Procrastination on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine. Please prepare!
3. ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE DUE DATE & TIME - if it is not, a ZERO will be earned as the grade. These assignments are time-imperative and depend on you keeping up with the course, as well as working in order to receive credit for them. This includes ALL video projects, including Flipgrid (our visual discussion board in this course). You may work ahead, but you may NOT get behind!
4. Start your work early in the week. You have a full week to complete work, so even if you are sick 2-3 days in one week, you still will have ample time to complete the work. This approach works best for everyone. This course is accessible 24/7 anywhere with internet access.
5. Students should log in daily to check the Course Stream for announcements.
6. Students are expected to finish one or two major presentation projects during each semester. It will be submitted as an attachment in Google Classroom. These videos will be shared with your classmates for peer review & feedback. There will also be a cumulative written final, expressive and receptive final given at the end of each semester.
7. Students are encouraged to attend one deaf community activity per semester. (Credit will be given in the form of a graded reaction paper) Truly the best way to learn a language & culture is to immerse yourself in it! Go out & meet some Deaf people in your area!
8. Students will be asked to record themselves signing several times during the semester. Remember: ALL Video project work is TIME SENSITIVE!
9. Any expressive video projects must be submitted by the due date. NO LATE PRESENTATIONS OR WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED! DO NOT WAIT until the last minute to complete these! "I didn't have internet access." or "My video would not upload" excuses will not be accepted. Lack of preparation on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part. PREPARE! Emailed, texted or other modes of transfer for videos will not be accepted for credit.
10. Assignments are posted on Sunday morning early. ALL work must be completed by the due date and time (Saturday evening). ALL LATE WORK WILL RECEIVE A ZERO.
11. Other work as assigned.

Late Work

No late work will be accepted for points. All work submitted will receive feedback. You MUST mark all work as DONE in Google Classroom in order to have your work graded and returned. If you receive a zero, you did not mark it as done or complete the work. Think of it this way - if you complete the work in your face-to-face classroom but never hand it in to the Teacher, what grade will you receive? When you click the "Mark as Done" button, that is the same as turning in work. You MUST do this in order to receive points for work!

Academic Integrity See the student handbook.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

American Sign Language (ASL) is the complex and naturally existing visual language used by Deaf people in North America. We will dive into the Deaf world by examining the culture, values, attitudes, and the Deaf community while developing ASL language skills. You will learn the vocabulary, grammar and culturally appropriate uses of ASL through a variety of conversational situations.

There will be individual, small group and large group activities. Activities include observation, warm-ups, storytelling, drama, mime, role-playing, games, presentations, and demonstrations. Since ASL is a visual language, you will need to develop communication skills that are different from spoken English: using one's hands, face, body, eyes and the space around you. To progress, it is important that students become comfortable using these skills and "listen" with their eyes. To encourage and foster the development of these skills, voicing in the classroom will not be accepted.

ASL STUDENTS: I am so excited to have you in my class this year!!! I look forward to getting to know all of you and be with you on your path to learning American Sign Language! I stress reciprocal respect. I am a big believer in manners and courtesy, so I have high expectations for you all! I know you won't disappoint - We're going to have a great year working together!

- Converse