

CMSD 4810

Basic Sign Language

Tu/Th

(soon to be American Sign Language I)

Instructor: Judith Oliver, M.S.Ed 562 Aderhold Hall

Email: jaoliver@coe.uga.edu

Phone: 706- 353-8596/ 706-614-3568

Mission Statement: To open the door for students who wish to step into the Deaf World, to teach the language, culture and respect for the people who live there so that students will become ambassadors for Deaf Culture in their life and work.

Office Hours: I am readily available to discuss your successes, problems, concerns, progress in this course. Office hours are flexible. Email me to set up an appointment. I highly suggest that each student drop by during the semester.

Course Credit Hours: 3

I. Textbooks: Ella Mae Lentz, Ken Mikos, Cheri Smith, (1993). Signing Naturally. Dawn Sign Press Purchase the book and videotape series **(No USED workbooks accepted)**

You will need access to a VCR to view the VHS tape that accompanies the curriculum purchased in the UGA bookstore.

ASL Dictionary can be purchased at local bookstore. See examples in class

Reading Packet to be purchased at Bel Jean

You will be responsible for *other readings* as directed by instructor. These readings will be available for you to copy in Office of Instructional Technology (OIT), 2nd floor Aderhold Hall

One 8mm tape to record expressive assignments plus 1 VHS tape used to dub (We will have a representative from OIT review policies related to borrowing equipment)

II. Course Description: This multicultural course is a basic introduction to American Sign Language and the people who use it. We will explore historical perspectives and values of Deaf Culture We will look at the linguistic claims that have been made about ASL and make comparisons with other languages. You will have opportunities to explore your attitudes about ASL and Deafness and dispel misconceptions. You will develop a new way of seeing by learning to communicate receptively and expressively with American Sign Language as a second language (foreign language).

III. At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. define ASL as a true language
2. understand the meaning of Deaf Culture
3. become familiar with resources related to Deaf Culture/ASL
4. think critically about the structure of ASL and the linguistic claims that have been made
5. become familiar with historical landmarks in the development of ASL and Deaf Culture in the United States.
6. receptively and expressively utilize fingerspelling
7. receptively and expressively dialogue using basic ASL structures.
8. receptively and expressively identify and explain 10 *basic* grammatical rules of ASL
9. Meet and sign with Deaf individuals at events outside of class.

IV. Attendance Policy: As ASL is a visual spatial language class attendance is essential. If you are absent it is your responsibility to get information about what was signed from classmates.

V. Communication Policy: A common concern among beginning signers is ,“How will I understand what you are saying since I don’t know ASL yet?” To enhance your acquisition of ASL your instructor will communicate to you in ASL. In the beginning you will be permitted to use your voice to talk with the Instructor, answer questions etc... As the class progresses you will be required to communicate via ASL. Language learning is an interactive process. For you to acquire this language you must participate fully in all of the student focused activities. Be prepared to transfer “hearing” from your ears to your eyes.

VI. Grading:

After the semester is over the grade that you earned will be posted. You will not have an opportunity to change your grade after that date.

| | |
|------------|---|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| 60-69 | D |
| 59 – below | F |

VII. Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on receptive and expressive language skills. There will also be evaluation on general knowledge through written exams.

- You will receive the grade you earn
- No make up quizzes
- If you arrive late for a quiz or exam you will be permitted to join in the testing situation **from the point at which you arrive. No signing will be repeated for late-comers.**
- It is the students responsibility to make prior arrangements with the instructor if the student is unable to attend class the day of

the exam. A grade of 0 will be given if you are absent on exam day and no PRIOR arrangements have been made.

- *Excused* absences are: emergencies, sickness with Dr. excuse and other situations which have been discussed with your instructor. All other absences are considered *unexcused*.
- Homework turned in late will receive an automatic deduction of 10 points. If turned in days later or weeks later it will be scored at teacher discretion

| | |
|--|-----|
| <u>Daily</u> : attendance, participation, pop quizzes, homework | 10% |
| <u>Quizzes</u> : 4 scheduled quizzes | 20% |
| <u>Mid Term</u> : 2 parts : written and receptive | 20% |
| <u>Final Exam</u> 2 parts: written and receptive | 20% |
| <u>Videotapes</u> 3 expressive tapes | 10% |
| <u>Group Presentations</u> : 3 group projects: ABC story, song, Deaf panel | 10% |
| <u>Deaf Culture Immersion events</u> 3 different events required | 10% |

VIII. University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

University Student Honor Code: " I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A *Culture of Honesty*, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi.

In an effort to maintain a healthy environment for learning The University of Georgia's Policy on Academic Honesty will be followed stringently in this course. Refer to the website above to familiarize yourself with this policy.

IX. Some additional thoughts

- Your instructor expects you to be teachable, responsible, communicative and to show integrity.
- When it comes to ASL, **learning to see** is the key! Visual acuity and a positive mental attitude are vital.
- When someone is asking a question in ASL please direct your eyes to them so that you are able to receive the information. If you're not looking at the signer it's your fault.
- Additional signs (other than those listed in each unit) will be included in daily conversation. It is your responsibility to make your own list of additional vocabulary that is noted by the teacher.
- Excessive tardiness or more than 3 absences may result in a lowered grade.
- ALL cell phones should be turned off before entering the classroom.

MARK TWAIN ONCE SAID, "I knew a man who grabbed a cat by the tail and learned forty percent more about cats than the man who didn't." (-think about it !)

CMSD 4810/6810 COURSE OUTLINE

| | |
|---------|--|
| 8/19 | INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OVERVIEW |
| Week 1 | Unit 1 and Unit 2 Define language To understand the importance of the eyes to ASL Practice Manual Alphabet 5 parameters of ASL |
| Week 2 | Define Deaf Culture Practice Unit 2 Describe historical significance of Deaf President Now movement Understand fingerspelling given context Directions for ABC Story group project |
| Week 3 | Unit 3 Historical markers in the development of ASL Visual/Spatial activities |
| Week 4 | Unit 4 Topic-comment, question forms Vocabulary review |
| Week 5 | ABC Stories Unit 5 Contrastive structure, possessives time concepts Articles: Ben Bahan, A Deaf Adult Speaks Out Directions for ASL Song group project |
| Week 6 | Deaf mini panel Practice vocabulary and grammar in conversational contexts |
| Week 7 | Review Units 1-5 and prepare for Midterm |
| Week 8 | Unit 6 Identifying fingerspelling in ASL dialogue Proper etiquette in communication situations Deaf Culture and the Arts |
| Week 9 | Receptive and Expressive dialogue in ASL Deaf -Blind De'VIA Movement |
| Week 10 | Group project Song due Fall Break |
| Week 11 | Unit 7- Giving and Receiving Directions |
| Week 12 | Deaf Panel at GA Center |
| Week 13 | Group project #3 Due Unit 8 - Describing people (ethnicity, body type, height, similarities & differences) |
| Week 14 | Deaf Culture and Healthcare Receptive and Expressive practice using ASL in context |
| Week 15 | Putting it Together - Dialogue in ASL |
| Week 16 | Facts and Form |

** This outline may be changed by the instructor based on needs and progress of the class*

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| CMSD 4810 IMPORTANT DATES - |
|---------------------------------------|

| | |
|-------|---|
| 9/2 | QUIZ 1 |
| 9/9 | VIDEO 1 |
| 9/21 | ABC STORIES |
| 9/23 | QUIZ 2 |
| 10/7 | MIDTERM plus 2 of the 3 Deaf Culture events due |
| 10/19 | VIDEO 2 |
| 10/21 | QUIZ 3 |
| 10/26 | GROUP SONGS |
| 10/28 | FALL BREAK |
| 11/9 | DEAF PANEL 7-9PM Ga Center |
| 11/11 | QUIZ 4 |
| 11/18 | DEAF PANEL GROUP PROJECT |
| 11/23 | VIDEO 3 |
| 11/25 | THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY |
| 11/30 | Turn in last Deaf Culture event write up |
| 12/7 | Last day of class |

FINAL EXAMS:

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Tu/Th 11:00am | Tuesday, December 14 | Noon-3pm |
| Tu/Th 12:30pm | Thursday, December 16 | Noon-3pm |

oup Projects:

You are required to complete 3 group projects. The groups will be assigned by the teacher. Below is an outline of projects. I will give you further details on requirements and grading as we proceed.

Project 1: ABC STORY

Objective: To gain experience using gestures and facial expressions to communicate more effectively.

Format: Each student group will create a complete story using only handshapes in consecutive ABC order. The teacher will give examples before you begin. Each group will perform your ABC story for the class on the due date.

Project 2: SONG

Objective: To expand vocabulary, expression and knowledge of language structures through music.

Format: Each student group will randomly pick a music genre among a list compiled by the instructor. The group will meet outside of class to work on the translation of the song. On the given date each group will perform their song for the class. You will be graded on ASL production, clarity, grammar and creativity.

Project 3: DEAF PANEL

Objective: To provide a safe environment for students to communicate with native signers and learn more about Deaf Culture.

Format: This event has proved over and over to be a highlight of CMSD 4810. You will be placed in groups by the teacher and given a Deaf Culture topic on which to gather information. You must gather information about your topic at the Deaf Panel. This event provides you an opportunity to meet 16 Deaf people and ask various questions. The panel is a culmination of everything you've learned during the semester!

Outside Events:

You are required to attend 3 outside of class Deaf Culture events and write about your experience. Use the following format for your write up:

- a. Name of event and location
- b. When held and times
- c. How many Deaf people attended and ages/ethnicity/etc...?
- d. Describe your experience and give supporting details.
- e. What made you comfortable / uncomfortable?
- f. What did you learn?
- g. How were you involved in the situation?
 - observing
 - meeting Deaf people on your own/introducing yourself
 - meeting Deaf people with aid of teacher, friends

- conversing with Deaf people
- requesting help from a Deaf people

**** Outside of class events** allow you to use your newly acquired ASL skills. You are required to choose 3 events outside of class during the semester. Each experience must be at least 1 _ hours or more. Below is a listing of events the are acceptable in meeting this requirement. I will continue to update you on new events.

***List of acceptable events**

Cultural Events: Pick 2 from this category

- Any Silent Dinner event-:
- Mall of Georgia 1st Sat of each month 6:pm till 9pm
- Discover Mills 2nd Sat of each month
- Athens Mall (GA Square) 3rd Sat of each month
- Any interpreted church service, theatrical event, workshop, etc
- Attending captioned movies (Regal Medlock Crossing 18 /Duluth GA or Mall of GA)

Check for other Deaf Culture events at www.gachi.org or SHIG (Silent Happenings in Georgia)

Also check for www.epeachyblue.com

- Atlanta Area School for the Deaf Fall Festival and other A.A.S.D. events
- G.S.D. football games

Other events Pick 1 from this category

- Volunteering at deaf school or public school deaf classrooms
- Volunteering for Sertoma Club events
- Volunteering at Waseca School (ask to speak to Scarlett)
- ASL club events
- Volunteering or attending Visual Effects events/ Camp D.O.V.E.
- You may present other ideas to the instructor for approval