

University of Georgia - Athens

Course Syllabus/Summer Semester 2005

Course: American Sign Language I (3 credit hours)
CRN: CMSD 4810
Meeting Days & Time: Tuesdays @ 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Location: Aderhold Hall, Room 520
Instructor: Carla R. Berghult
A.A., B.S., M.A., ASLTA-Q Certified
Office phone number: (706) 542-4561
Email: signaway@bellsouth.net
Text(s): Lentz, E.M., Mikos, K., & Smith, C. (1988).
Signing Naturally (Level One): Level 1- Student
Workbook and Videotape (Expanded Edition). San
Diego, CA: Dawn Sign Press.
ISBN #: 0-915035-20-0

Humphries, T., Padden, C., & O'Rourke, T.J.
(1994). A Basic Course in American Sign
Language. (Second Edition). Silver Spring, MD: TJ
Publishers, Inc.
ISBN # 0-932666-42-6

Academic Honesty Policy

University of Georgia seeks to promote and ensure academic integrity on its campuses. Please refer to UGA's catalog or to the website www.uga.edu/ovpi for detailed information regarding Academic Honesty. According to UGA's catalog, "Academic integrity is an adherence to a high standard of values regarding life and work in an academic community." In addition, "Students and faculty who suspect that an act of academic dishonesty has taken place should contact the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs" (UGA General Catalog).

Disability Statement

Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should make an appointment with the Disability Services located in the Tate Student Center, room 345 to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For more information, call (706) 542-8719. You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your specific needs.

Class Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is the student's responsibility. Students are expected to account for absences to the instructor and, at the discretion of the instructor, to make up all work missed because of the absence. If the student knows that he/she will be absent, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor by email. (See above for the email address).

Pre-requisites: None.

Course Description

This basic course in fingerspelling and sign language is designed to interest the student in deafness, its language and culture, and to develop receptive and expressive skills in the use of fingerspelling and basic signs in American Sign Language. The participants will also gain invaluable insights to the culture of the Deaf Community.

Course Outcome(s):

The students will be introduced to basic vocabulary and phrases in American Sign Language. Information presented in the course will allow the students to converse using everyday phrases with the deaf population. The participants will also gain insights to the culture of the Deaf Community.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- A. Expressively produce the manual alphabet, numbers, vocabulary, and basic sentence structures of ASL.
- B. Receptively understand the basic vocabulary in ASL.
- C. Gain insights of Deaf Culture
- D. At the completion of the course, the student will become confident in expressing oneself through ASL.

Method of Evaluation:

Instructor evaluation of attendance, participation, and completion of assignments.

Assignments:

1. Quizzes are given at random throughout the semester on previously taught material.
2. After each unit completed, a **test** will be given (written and/or oral “signed”) Discussion of Deaf Culture will be included on these tests.
3. Activity reports. *Three* reports of activities involving persons who are Deaf will be written. The purpose of these activity reports is to observe native-like ASL communication, become more familiar with the deaf community, meet and interact with the deaf and interpreting communities using your emerging sign language skills. **Each report should include the (1) description of the activity, (2) new information or skills you have learned at the activity and (3) reflections about your personal perspective/comments. EACH REPORT SHALL BE 1 FULL PAGE TO 1 ½ PAGE IN LENGTH, TYPED AND DOUBLE-SPACED.**
4. Workbook. I will be checking your workbook during the unit tests to check on your progress.
5. Last, but not the least, a signing presentation is required. This signing presentation will be on videotape (VHS only). A list of topics will be announced at a later date. It should be 3 to 5 minutes in length. If you do not own or not have access to a video camera, there is one available in Floyd College Library. This will be due towards the end of the semester.

Grading:

Quizzes/Unit Tests	25%
Activity Reports	25%
Signing Presentation/Workbook	25%
Final Exam	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Note: Late papers, reports, and projects may result in a reduction of up to five (5) points per assignment for each day past the due date.

Exam Make-up Policy: Any exams/quizzes missed due to excused absence from class **must** be made up before the next class meeting. Communication with the instructor before the next class is essential in regards to make-ups. If no prior arrangements have been made then a grade of “0” will be given. 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.**

Course Calendar:

6/14	Welcome! Orientation and Introduction to American Sign Language Unit 1 & 2 <u>Signing Naturally</u> (SN)
6/21	Unit 1/2 Test (SN) Begin Unit 3 (SN) Begin Lessons 1 & 2 <u>A Basic Course in American Sign Language</u> (ABC) Workbook check #1
6/28	Unit 3 Test (SN) & Vocabulary Quiz 1 (ABC 1 & 2) Begin Unit 4 (SN) & Lessons 3 & 4 (ABC) Activity Report #1 Due Workbook check #2
7/05	Unit 4 Test (SN) & Vocabulary Quiz 2 (ABC 3 & 4) Begin Unit 5 (SN) & Lessons 5 & 6 (ABC) Workbook check #3
7/12	Unit 5 Test (SN) & Vocabulary Quiz 3 (ABC 5 & 6) Begin Unit 6 (SN) & Lessons 7 & 8 (ABC) Activity Report #2 Due Workbook check #3
7/19	Unit 6 Test (SN) & Vocabulary Quiz 4 (ABC 7 & 8) Begin Presentations (possible Guest Speaker(s)?) Workbook check #4
7/26	Cumulative Review Presentations Due Activity Report #3 Due
8/02	Final Exam

Note: This course calendar may be altered at any time due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Adjustments will be made the next class meeting or via email.