

CMSD 4810 American Sign Language I

Tu/Th

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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:

1. Ella Mae Lentz, Ken Mikos, Cheri Smith, (1993). *Signing Naturally*, Dawn Sign Press, book and videotape series **(No USED workbooks accepted!!!!!!)** You will need VCR access to view the VHS tape that accompanies the curriculum.
2. Tom Humphries, Carol Padden, Terrence J. O'Rourke, (1980) *A Basic Course in American Sign Language*, TJ Publishers
3. ASL Dictionary can be purchased at local bookstore. See examples in class
4. Reading Packet to be purchased at Bel Jean
5. 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
6. One 8mm tape to record expressive assignments plus 1 VHS tape used to dub
(We will review policies related to borrowing equipment from Office of Instructional Technology)

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 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
69-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 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> : , pop quizzes, homework, workbook, *Deaf Culture event(3) *(ASL club may count as ONE of the three)	20%
<u>Quizzes</u> : 5 scheduled quizzes	20%
<u>Mid Term</u> : written and receptive	20%
<u>Final Exam</u>	20%
<u>Presentations (3)</u>	20%

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

- 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 !)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

What PRESENTATIONS are required?

Presentation 1 SIGNED INTRODUCTION

Objective: To become comfortable meeting Deaf people and giving information about yourself in ASL.

Format: Learn to sign an introduction about yourself. Include your name, you are hearing, that you are learning ASL, where you are learning ASL, your teachers name, why you are learning ASL, where you are from, some facts about your family, your major and any other info you wish to include.

Presentation 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.

Presentation 3: DEAF PANEL

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

Format: You will be divided into 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, through researching various publications, the required event on 10/13 and other sources. Your group will make a presentation to the class about your topic.

QUIZZES:

Quiz #1	9/1
Quiz #2	9/22
Quiz #3	10/4
Quiz #4	10/25
Quiz #5	11/15

MIDTERM: 10/11

FINAL EXAM: 11am class Dec 13, 12-3pm
12:30 class Dec 15 12-3pm
One expressive video tape may be required for final exam

REQUIRED EVENTS!!!!!!!!!!!!

1. Deaf Panel- Sept 20 – during regular class time
2. Outside of Class event October 13, 7-9pm GA CENTER Master's Hall Auditorium

DEAF CULTURE EVENTS: 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? Ages/ethnicity/ect...?
- d. Describe your experience and give supporting details
- e. 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*

HEAR MY HANDS is a student initiated Sign Language Club created to provide opportunities to use and practice ASL in a non-threatening environment. Monthly activities are planned and carried out by a committee of interested students. Plan to attend some of these fun events

CLASS DATE	OBJECTIVE	HOMEWORK
August 18	Introduction and Course Overview Unit 1 SN Manual Alphabet	Read Hoeman article pg 1-4 Memorize Manual Alphabet and signs in Unit 1 SN Read Harlan Lane article pg.3-28 <i>A Different Center</i>
August 23	Define Deaf Culture Distinctive features of ASL Nouns in ASL Interrogatives	Read & Study ABC pp.6-20 Complete Workbook Unit 2 SN Lesson 9 ABC Read C. Padden Article
August 25	Personal pronouns Possessive pronouns Use of space and vision in ASL	Complete Unit 3 SN Lesson 2 ABC Read <i>Introduction to ASL and Deaf Community</i>
August 30	What is Language? Historical markers in the development of ASL Review Units 3 & 4	Complete Unit 4 SN Read <i>The Deaf Teacher, An Endangered Species</i>
Sept 1	Spatial referencing/picture it Sentences in ASL: Topic/comment Declarative/Imperative Simple/Compound/Complex Negatives pg 40 ABC QUIZ #1	Read DPN pg 4 SN and packet <i>Deaf President Now!</i> *PRESENTATION # 1- DUE 9/6 PREPARE INTRODUCTION
Sept 6	Present Introductions to be videotaped in class DPN video	ABC Lesson 3 Work with partners to create skit Read packet <i>The Language of the Deaf World</i>
Sept 8	Review Basic Sentence structure Groups present skits Deafness: Difference or Disability? (receive assignments for Presentation #2)	Review pp 38-50 SN
Sept 13	<i>Talking about Family</i> - SN Video Unit 5 Constrastive Structure	Handout-be able to sign these sentences related to family Read <i>What Total Family Involvement Means to Me</i>
Sept 15	More receptive and expressive practice (cumulative)	Handout: Identify Famous Deaf people
Sept 20	REQUIRED !!!!! Guest speakers – Deaf panel	Q&A take home questions
Sept 22	QUIZ #2 Deaf panel feedback and discussion	Study Vocab Lessons 4&5ABC
Sept 27	Verbs in ASL Directionality Establishing tense	Lesson 16 ABC Unit 6 SN
Sept 29	Expressive & Receptive practice Calendar	
Oct 4	QUIZ #3	Deaf Awareness Q&A take home
Oct 6	Review	
Oct 11	MIDTERM (receptive, written)	
Oct 13	REQUIRED EVENT!!!: 7-9PM GA Center (Day class cancelled in lieu of attending event)	Write out your response to tonight's speaker. Practice signing it
Oct 18	MUSIC AND ASL Sign your response to Mr. Miller's presentation	Translate ASL song with partner "perform" 10/25

Oct 20	Work on translations in class	
Oct 25	QUIZ #4 PRESENTATION #2 ASL song	
Oct 27	FALL BREAK	
Nov 1	Imperatives	Lesson 7 &8 ABC
Nov 3	Interrogatives	Lesson 10 ABC
Nov 8	Using Modals	
Nov 15	QUIZ #5 Dr. Robert Smithdus/Deaf-Blind	PROJECT 2 DUE 11/17
Nov 17	PRESENTATION #3 DUE- <i>Deaf World</i> Presentations	
Nov 22	Presentations continued	
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Nov 29		
Dec 1		
Dec 6	Friday schedule	
Dec 8	Wrap up	
Dec 13 Final Exam	11am class: Exam 12-3	
Dec 14 Final Exam	12:30 class Exam 12-3	