

ASL102
American Sign Language Level I Part B
3 Credits

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ASL102 Version: 7



American Sign Language Level I Part B

Calendar Description

In this course, students are introduced to American Sign Language (ASL), its culture, and to the community of Deaf persons who use this language. Students learn how to have basic conversations as well as use appropriate behaviors within the Deaf Community.

Rationale

This is a required course for the American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Studies Certificate Program. Individuals working with the Deaf community need to develop basic, practical communication and conversational skills. In this course, students are introduced to American Sign Language (ASL), its culture, and to the community of Deaf persons who use this language. Students learn how to have basic conversations as well as use appropriate behaviors within Deaf Culture. The content of this course provides the foundational knowledge and skills required to begin interacting with the Deaf community.

Prerequisites

[ASL101](#)

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. use ASL to:
 1. express how to negate questions or comments
 2. use appropriate ASL numbers 1-100 and rocking numbers
 3. express familial relationships and their ages
 4. formulate how to get meaning across when communicating
 5. demonstrate understanding of the cultural significance of clear sightlines
 6. identify and demonstrate fingerspelling nuances

7. discuss chores, errands and activities
8. modify verbs to show agreement
9. demonstrate story-telling skills, including story cohesion, role shifting, spacial agreement, and character development.

Resource Materials

Required Text:

Smith, Lentz, & Mikos. (2018). *Signing naturally student workbook units 1-6*.

ISBN 978-1-58121-210-5.

Conduct of Course

This course has 45 hours of instruction and additional hours will be required to attend events in/with the Deaf community at the instructor's discretion. Students are encouraged to practice outside of class hours.

Lessons are presented in a manner that incorporates students' lived experiences. Activities provide students with opportunities to engage in meaningful and exploratory conversations. The units build upon the information presented in ASL 101.

This course includes a combination of hands on learning from DVD's, the internet, interactive activities, group and individual practice, discussions in ASL, reviews, and lectures.

This is an immersion course, which means that students are expected to use the language of the classroom, ASL.

Participation in class and at Deaf community events are essential for language/ASL acquisition. Should a student miss a class/event, it is the student's responsibility to both notify the instructor and program facilitator of the absence and make arrangements with a classmate or the instructor to obtain the missed course material.

Evaluation Procedures

The grading system is based on the number of points received for each assignment. Students are required to complete all assignments and assessments. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

Participation	5%
Lab	5%
Progress Check #1	30%
Progress Check #2	30%
Progress Check #3	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of D (1.00) is required to pass this course. In addition, students must acquire an overall G.P.A. of C (2.00) to meet graduation requirements.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.0

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for success in any course. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of completing course work and assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor. More than two (2) absences from class or events, per course, per semester, may result in probation. Further absences may result in suspension from the program.

In cases of repeated absences due to illness, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate.

Instructors have the authority to require attendance in classes.

Community Events

As part of this course, students are expected to attend events in/with the Deaf community. The purpose of this is to observe, to socialize, to become familiar with various signing styles and to practice personal signing skills. Some events may require admission fees, which vary from \$10 to \$50.

Course Units/Topics

Unit 4: Talking About Family

Unit 5: Talking About Activities

Unit 6: Story Telling

Appendix A

Guidelines for ASL classes

- Take responsibility for own learning: practice and review regularly.
- Demonstrate respect for instructors, administration and peers.
- When on-site, in the classroom, hallways, or in shared space, and while attending Deaf Community or related events, be culturally sensitive and respectful and use ASL. Always use ASL when Deaf people are present.
- Warm up and exercise your hands before signing.
- Ask for clarification - of the instructor and/or of your classmates, or any guests who attend class.
- When a sign is not known, utilize writing strategies, gestures etc. to communicate.
- Have a desire to improve.
- Be willing to accept feedback.
- Respect the different signing styles of all instructors. You will see various signs that may represent the same concept: no one sign or way to communicate a concept is "right / wrong" simply different.
- Learn, remember and follow the rules of Deaf Culture.
- Always inform the instructor when you need to leave the class.

Appendix B

Cultural Information

Do not use your voice or spoken English in the classroom!

This may seem harsh to you at first, understandably. The reasoning is simple. Using ASL permits all communication to be accessible, and demonstrates respectful behaviour towards everyone. As well, it forces you to become more expressive with your body. In short, this fosters the development of your expressive skills. If you use your voice, there is no motivation to use your body - "Why bother, I can always talk." This also assists you in becoming more visually aware and sensitive to your peers in terms of attention-getting behaviors, visual accessibility, facial expressions and ASL facial grammar.

Interpretation services are provided in the classroom from time to time. At which time, and at your teacher's direction, you may be invited to ask questions and participate in discussions using spoken English.

Identifying People

In conversation, when referring to a stranger, it is common in Deaf Culture to describe the person's appearance. The description often includes gender, height, body type (muscular, heavier set, or thin), colour and style of hair, race, facial features (freckles, mustache, beard, mole, etc.), and/or style or colour of clothing. Hearing people may find this cultural norm to be offensive, or politically incorrect. Please understand that no offense is intended, it is simply a means of quickly identifying who is being referred during the conversation.

Individual Differences in Signs

Throughout the American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Studies program, you will be exposed to multiple Deaf instructors and other members of the Deaf community, each of whom has a unique signing style. An individual's signing style is influenced by many factors such as the age of onset of Deafness, the family environment they grew up in, and the types of signed languages they learned at various ages. You will see Deaf instructors and members of the Deaf Community using different signs for the same word or concept. Neither sign is 'right' or 'wrong' as there are many ways to sign a particular word or concept. As well, many words have multiple signs depending on geographical regions and ASL dialects. You are expected to show respect for each Deaf instructor's / community member's individual style and approach to ASL by using whichever version of the sign that is preferred by the current teacher and/or guest in your classroom. This may mean using different signs for one word during regular classes and events, depending on who is teaching that particular session.



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