

SYLLABUS

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I

**Three Rivers Community College
Mohegan Campus
Mahan Drive, Norwich**

Room 202

Wednesday, 6:00 - 8:45 p.m.

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Spring 2007

Course Description

This beginner's course will focus on developing the student's ability to communicate in American Sign Language (ASL) through classroom instruction and participation as well as out of class readings and practice. The instructional approach will be holistic, exploring all aspects of the language – mechanics, culture, environmental concerns and interpreting.

Goals and Objectives - *Upon successful completion of Sign language I, students will be able to:*

- Recognize and use, both expressively and receptively approximately 1,500 vocabulary words.
- Clearly and accurately express and receive fingerspelled words, at a slower than normal rate of speed.
- Carry on a basic introductory and information sharing conversation in ASL.
- Develop a beginning understanding of the grammar and syntax of ASL and a basic ability to use these properly, including the following:
 - Utilize and explain non-manual grammatical ASL features (wh & y/n questions; enhance and/or change meanings)
 - Know and be able to explain the importance of the 5 parameters of sign production
 - Know and recognize the use of the 6 components of sign language
 - Understand and be able to incorporate the concept of verbs that express movement and show location.
 - Know and be able to correctly use the concept of verb pairs.
 - Know and be able to correctly use the concept of noun/verb pairs.
 - Be able to express the negatives, including negative incorporation.
 - Know how to indicate plurals – using quantifiers; using numbers.
 - Know how to indicate tense.
 - Gain a beginning understanding of the concept of *finish*.
- Have a beginning understanding and ability to use numbers and some of the number systems.
 - Be able to count 0 – 1,000,000.
 - Understand the concept of time incorporating numbers.
 - Use personal pronouns that incorporate numbers.
 - Use numbers to count and show age & time
 - Be able to indicate money, incorporating numbers.

- Develop a beginning understanding of classifiers, their use and how to incorporate them into conversation.
- Develop an understanding of deafness, the uses of ASL and the controversy between the philosophies of oral vs. manual communication.
- Expand knowledge about the differences between hearing and deaf cultures.
- Develop insight to, understanding of, and empathy for the experiences of being deaf and learning to communicate in a predominantly hearing world.

Materials

- Required Text: Learning American Sign Language (2nd edition) – Tom Humphries & Carol Padden.
- Supplemental materials will be provided by the instructor

Procedure

1. Classroom instruction of language components.
2. Modeling of target language.
3. Practice using target language in and outside of class.
4. Interaction with native users of target language.
5. In-class activities and presentations.
6. Quizzes.
7. Mini papers written on the language, culture, and people.

Method of Evaluation

Students gain proficiency/mastery at different rates. Each student is capable of achieving proficiency/mastery in ASL and will be given every opportunity to do so. Evaluation of this course will be based on a point system consisting of 1000 points, which are divided among the following categories. All assessments are cumulative.

1. **Classroom Participation - 45% (450 points).** In order to learn sign language one MUST participate in using it! Sorry, no shortcuts on this one!

Presentations/Exams are cumulative – 3 presentations/exams will take place throughout the semester by assignment and will be interactive among students in the class. Both the expressive skills of the presenters and the receptive skills of the audience members will be evaluated. Quality of signing is an important component of presentations. Each presentation/exam will also include a written section on theory. Evaluation of each presentation will always include the following criteria as well as aspects of the current lessons.

- Clarity and fluency of signs
- Choice of signs
- Correct usage/grammar
- Appropriate use of facial expressions and body language
- Clear formation and appropriate use of fingerspelling
- * Confidence

Each presentation is worth 150 points divided into 2 parts for a **total of 450**.

Expressive - 100 points/presentation = 300 for semester.

Receptive - 25 points/presentation = 75 for semester.

Theory - 25 points/presentation = 75 for semester

2. **Quizzes - 35% (350 points)** - Quizzes will be used to assess your progress and to show you where you need to focus your energy. There will be 10 quizzes throughout the semester. **Worth 35 points each, total 350 points.**

3. **Mini Papers - 20% (200 points)**. Each student will be required to write 4 mini papers worth 50 points each. Each paper will be 2 pages typed or neatly written using the following guidelines:
 - Each mini is a representation of YOUR thoughts, YOUR feelings/beliefs, YOUR impressions, YOUR agreements/disagreements and why.
 - Is this new or old information for you?
 - How has this experience/material impacted you?
 - How will you use this information?
 - Does this information/activity change the way you think or support it? How and why?

Mini papers that do not satisfy the above requirements will be given back to the student to redo and will receive no credit until the criteria are satisfactorily completed.

Each student has the opportunity to earn a total of 1000 points. The grading scale is:

	A = 935 – 1000 points	A- = 900 - 934
B+ = 865 - 899 points	B = 825 – 864	B- = 800 – 824
C+ = 765 - 799 points	C = 725 – 764	C- = 700 – 724
D+ = 665 – 699 points	D = 630 – 664	D- = 600 - 629

Students' grades are kept on a progress form. Students will receive a progress report on October 23rd. Each student can track his/her own progress on the enclosed copy of the progress form.

Those students who show proficiency/mastery of the goals and objectives by the end of the semester will receive grades accordingly. (C= proficiency; B = above proficiency; A= mastery)

Miscellaneous Expectations and Information:

Class begins **promptly** at 6:30 p.m. and procedures will not be delayed to accommodate late comers. **Consistent practice** using sign is of utmost importance if students are to master the language. Therefore, students will be expected to spend time out of class practicing the language alone, with partners, in conversations, in a mirror, etc. Any public library will have or be able to get through inter-library loan videos and books on ASL.

Early Warning

All students will receive an interim progress report on Oct. 26th. If you are having ANY difficulty for any reason, please see me as early as possible to discuss ways of assisting you to be successful in this class.

College Withdrawal Policy

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office for any reason through 9/18th and still receive some refund. **NOTE: Final day to withdraw from classes is Nov.9^h**. You will need the instructor's signature.

Disabilities Statement

If you have a hidden or visible disability, and require classroom or test-taking modification, please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please be sure to notify Student Development and Services, which coordinates services to students with disabilities, or Chris Scarborough, Learning Specialist.

What you can expect from me

- To be to class on time (early in most cases!)
- To be prepared
- To hold class for the entire class period
- To return corrected work, as often as possible, the next class period after it is collected
- To give you my best effort in sharing what I know about American Sign Language and the Deaf
- To work with each individual to assist her/him to successfully complete this course.

I will be at QVCC in Willimantic early each week and available for extra assistance before class time – please see me to set up time and place. _

If at any time you have concerns or questions about what is expected, how you are progressing, your grades, or anything else, please see me right away.

For Information regarding school cancellations due to weather call QVCC at 860-774-1130

COURSE MEETING DATES – Spring 2007

(Subject to change due to life!)

1/24	Welcome – Expectations – Getting started
1/31	Quiz #1 Mini #1 due
2/7	
2/14	Quiz #2
2/21	Quiz #3 Mini #2 Due
2/28	Presentation//exam #1
3/7	
3/14	Quiz #4 Mini #3 Due
3/21	NO CLASS – Spring Break Progress Report
3/28	Quiz #6
4/4	Quiz #7 **NOTE: Final day to withdraw – must have instructor’s signature
4/11	Quiz #8
4/18	Presentation/Exam #2
4/25	Quiz #9 Mini #4 Due
5/2	Quiz #10
5/9	Final Presentation/Exam #3 OR Make up date
5/16	??Final??

MAKE-UP WORK & EXTRA CREDIT

1. Missed quizzes **MUST** be made up as soon as possible.
2. Missed presentations **MUST** be made up as soon as possible after the scheduled date. Due to the nature of presentations, only the expressive and theory portions will be able to be made up.
3. All minis that fulfill the requirements will receive full credit.
4. This course does not offer extra credit.

**IT IS EACH STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH
ME, TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK**

