

SYLLABUS

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THURSDAY
5:00 – 7:45

Alison O'Connor, MSW
(860) 899-1596 (office)
(732) 379-0236 (cell-Text ONLY)
SWer4Deaf@GMail.Com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ASL K101 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I

This course introduces the student to American Sign Language, the language used by the Deaf Community in the United States. This course covers fundamentals of the basic structure of ASL grammar, vocabulary, fingerspelling/numbers, and visual gestural communication, and the instruction of Cultural aspects of Deafness.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of Sign language I, students will be competent, receptively and expressively, in the following areas by:

- Demonstrate the ability to select, produce, and use appropriate sign vocabulary for clear and accurate communication.
- Apply the appropriate grammar and syntax by using facial expression and body language to communicate in sign language effectively.
- Develop understanding of Deaf culture, differences between Deaf and hearing cultures and insight of the experiences of being deaf when communicating in a hearing world.

MATERIALS

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

PROCEDURE

- 1 Classroom instruction of language component.
- 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 discussions, activities and presentations.
- 6 Off campus activities with written papers.
- 7 Quizzes & Exams

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. All assessments are cumulative.

This Class uses the following point system for grading:

A: 4.0	94-100	C: 2.0	74-76
A-: 3.7	90-93	C-: 1.7	70-73
B+: 3.3	87-89	D+: 1.3	67-69
B: 3.0	84-86	D: 1.0	64-66
B-: 2.7	80-83	D-: 0.7	60-63
C+: 2.3	77-79	F: 0.0	59 and below

1. Classroom Participation/Attendance – 30%

In order to learn sign language, one MUST participate in using it. I recognize that there are extenuating circumstances, if there is an issue with being able to attend class, please contact me. Attendance will be recorded.

In class activities – 2 assignments included in the classroom participation requirement will be interactive among students in the class. Activities will be done alone or with a partner and in which both expressive and receptive skills will be practiced.

2. Exams – 25% (Midterm and Final)

Both the expressive and the receptive skills of students will be tested. Each exam will also include a written section on theory. Missed exams can be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor.

3. Quizzes – 25%

Quizzes will be used to assess your weekly progress and to show you where you need to focus your energy. There will be 5 quizzes. Each quiz will include a signing portion and or questions on other aspects of correct usage of ASL as well as Deaf Culture information provided in class.

4. Reaction Paper- 5%

We will see the movie “Audism Unveiled” in class. You will then be asked to write a 1-2 page, double spaced, reaction paper on the movie. Do not rehash everything that happened in the movie, but highlight topics covered during the movie that resonated with you, in either a positive or negative way. Should you miss class that day, the library will have a copy on reserve.

5. Outside Activity--15%

Each student will be required to watch one full-length movie that they haven’t seen.

It must be a movie that you are not familiar with and have never seen before. No volume or captioning can be used for the entire movie. No foreign films or children’s movies.

You must re-watch the movie with sound before writing the paper, in order to gain plot information you might have missed the first time you watched it. After watching the movie, a paper is to be written describing your experience. Each paper will be at least 2 pages typed, 12 pt double spaced using the

following guidelines:

- Each paper is a representation of YOUR thoughts. YOUR feelings or beliefs, YOUR impressions, YOUR agreements / disagreements and why.
- How has this experience / activity impacted you?
- How will you use this information?
- Does this information / activity change the way that you think?
How and why?

****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.**

MISCELLANEOUS EXPECTATIONS AND INFORMATION:

ATTENDANCE:

Class begins promptly at 5:00 p.m. and procedures will not be delayed to accommodate late comers. Students are expected to attend all classes. If you choose not to attend it will affect your grade. Two or more absences without prior notice will be detrimental to your grade.

Consistent practice of using American Sign Language is of utmost importance if students are to master the language. Therefore, students will be expected to spend time outside of class practicing the language of native signers so that they can practice what they learn in class. Any public library will have or be able to obtain videos and books on ASL through inter-library loan.

COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office for any reason until the end of the 10th week of classes. NOTE: You will need your instructor's signature if you decide to withdraw at the end of the 10th week.

PLAGARISM

In order to support the process of promoting academic integrity at Three Rivers, any student who plagiarizes work from an outside source or from another student in the class will receive a failing grade for the assignment. I will also follow the process which is outlined in the Student handbook for anyone who is suspected of Academic dishonesty.

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.

SUBMISSION POLICY

All assignments or presentations are expected to be submitted on the date they are due, by the end of the scheduled class. I will not accept late assignments or late papers. Students are given one

week to make up missed quizzes at the discretion of the instructor. **It is each student's responsibility to schedule an appointment for this make up quiz.** Any quiz that is not made up will receive a grade of 0.

Missed In-class Activities cannot be made up due to the nature of the activities.
This course does not offer extra credit.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSING

The following is the college's inclement weather policy. **PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR DIRECTLY WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT COLLEGE-WIDE CLOSINGS.**

Communications regarding closings, cancellations, and delays: In the event a decision is made to cancel or delay classes or to close school completely, this decision will be communicated in the following ways:

Radio and Television Announcements will be made on the following stations:

TV Channel 3 – WFSB	TV Channel 30 – WVIT NBC Connecticut News 30
TV Channel 8 – WTNH	WTIC/WRCH/WZMX Radio – Hartford
WICH/WCTY/WNLC/WKNL Radio – Norwich/New London	
WSUB/Q105 Radio – Groton/New London	
WINY Radio – Putnam	WADK Radio – Westerly
WILI Radio – Willimantic	WDRC Radio – Hartford

The College's website will also have announcements regarding any delays, cancellations or closings. This information may be obtained by accessing **www.trcc.commnet.edu**.

The myCommnet Alert Notification System will also be used to deliver important information to students, faculty, and staff regarding weather-related class cancellations. The system delivers both email messages, and text messages over cellular phones to those individuals who are registered. To register, log on to your myCommnet account at **<http://my.commnet.edu/>** and follow the link to myCommnet Alert.

Timing of announcements: Except under rapidly changing conditions, information on the status of day classes will be available and published by 6:30 AM and by 3:00 PM for evening classes starting at 5:00 PM and later.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME:

- To arrive to class on time
- To be available by appointment for discussion on concerns or clarifications of material
- 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 / his to successfully complete this course.

VALUABLE RESOURCES:

www.aslpro.com
www.lifeprint.com
www.signingsavvy.com
<http://aslbrowser.commtechlab.msu.edu/browser.htm>
<http://www.masterstech-home.com/asldict.html>

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.

Important Things to Remember:

- ❖ If you miss a class, you are responsible to get the information from class. A class outline will be posted on Blackboard, but all notes that are given during class WILL NOT be duplicated on Blackboard. I recommend that you “buddy up” with a few other students in class to make sure you obtain all of the information needed.
- ❖ If a quiz is missed, you have until 6:00 pm the following Sunday to contact me to schedule a makeup date. If you do not contact me, you will receive a zero (0) for that quiz. Please do not come in the day of the next class and ask for a makeup quiz.
- ❖ Submission of all videos (midterm and final) are due by the end of class on the date due whether or not you are in class. Videos need to be turned in via one of the following ways: a DVD, a flash (thumb) drive, or posting on YouTube. I will provide more specific instructions in class. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to ensure that the submitted materials are on the DVD/flash drive or that the link is correct (if submitting via YouTube).
- ❖ If you choose not to participate in class activities, your grade will be affected.

- ❖ I take attendance. The reason is because you cannot effectively learn ASL just from reading a book. You must interact with others using sign language. If you choose not to show up for class because you feel you already know the material, your grade will be affected. There are 15 classes; I will allow one absence during the semester. Each class is worth 7 points towards your attendance grade. If you attend all classes, you will get 107% for your attendance grade. If you miss three (3) classes, the highest attendance grade you can receive is a 79. Since attendance is 30% of your grade, you WILL feel the effect of not showing up to class repeatedly.

- ❖ I am available before class in the Adjunct offices (2nd floor, D wing, room #) and by appointment.

- ❖ I believe that the best way to learn is to have fun. American Sign Language is a beautiful language, and I am excited to begin to show you this wonderful language.

- January 19, 2012: Introductions, Syllabus, Introduce Ch. 1-2
- January 26, 2012: Review 1-2, Introduce Ch. 3, Review for 1st quiz
- February 2, 2012: *No Class: College Professional Day*
- February 9, 2012: Review Ch. 3, **Quiz 1: Ch. 1-3**, Introduce Ch. 4
- February 16, 2012: Review Ch. 4, Introduce Ch. 5, “Audism Unveiled” shown in class
- February 23, 2012: Review Ch. 5, **Quiz 2: Ch. 4-5**, Introduce Ch. 6
- March 1, 2012: Review Ch. 6, Introduce Ch. 7, Review for Midterm, “Audism Unveiled” reaction paper due
- March 8, 2012: **Midterm Due**, Review Ch. 7, Introduce Ch. 8
- March 15, 2012: **Movie Paper Due**, Review Ch. 8, **Quiz 3: Ch. 7-8**, Introduce Ch. 9
- March 22, 2012: *No Class: Spring Break*
- March 29, 2012: Review Ch. 9, Introduce Ch. 10
- April 5, 2012: Review Ch. 10, **Quiz 4: Ch. 9-10**, Introduce Ch. 11
- April 12, 2012: Review Ch. 11, Introduce Ch. 12
- April 19, 2012: Review Ch. 12, **Quiz 5: Ch. 11-12**
- April 26, 2012: “Through Deaf Eyes” in class movie, Cumulative Review
- May 3, 2012: **Final Due**
- May 10, 2012: Class recap and review

These dates are subject to change should class be cancelled due to inclement weather

- ❖ There will be no Quiz on Chapter 6
- ❖ Midterm will cover Chapters 1 through 6

❖ Final is cumulative

Top 10 reasons for learning Sign Language

- 1) You can communicate through windows and across the room.
- 2) You can sign underwater.
- 3) You can sign with your mouth full.
- 4) You can use your hands to communicate.
- 5) Signing reduces noise pollution.
- 6) You can make friends with people.
- 7) Learning a new language opens doors.
- 8) Sign Language is a 3D language.
- 9) Sign Language is beautiful.
- 10) SIGN LANGUAGE BRINGS TOGETHER HEARING & DEAF PEOPLE 😊

