

SYLLABUS

SIGN LANGUAGE II

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY

6:30 – 9:15

Patricia D. Clark, CICT

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SPRING 2011

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a continuation of Sign Language I. American Sign Language (ASL) is stressed. Knowledge of issues surrounding deafness is given some emphasis. (Course does not fulfill foreign language requirement.)

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

## **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of Sign language II, 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.
- Further 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) – Tom Humphries & Carol Padden.
- Supplemental materials will be provided by the instructor.
- Videos and supplementary materials used in class and/or available through TRCC library.
- Required readings located on blackboard.

## 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.

### **1 Classroom Participation – 25%**

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 and those who repeatedly miss or leave class early will be subject to deductions in their grade.

### **2 Exams – 25% (Midterm and Final)**

One exam which will be cumulative and interactive among students in the class. Both the expressive and the receptive skills of students will be tested. Each exam will also include a written section on theory and Deaf Culture/History. Missed exam can be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor.

### **3 Presentations – 15%**

Two activities where students will demonstrate their expressive and receptive skills. Quality signing is an important component of presentations. Students will be graded on the following:

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

Each student must contribute 2 minutes of material.

Can elect to video in advance. Topics will be given in advance.

### **4 Quizzes – 20%**

Quizzes will be used to assess your weekly progress and to show you where you need to focus your energy. There will be 10 quizzes. Each exam will include a signing portion and or questions on other aspects of correct usage of ASL.

### **5 Outside visits to deaf functions – 15%**

Each student will be required to visit two functions where deaf people are present. Each visitation must be at least 1 ½ hours long. Following the visitation, a paper is to be written describing your experience at the site. Each paper will be 2 pages typed or neatly written using the following guidelines:

- Each paper is a representation of YOUR thoughts. YOUR feelings or beliefs, YOUR impressions, YOUR agreements / disagreements and why.
- Is this new or old information for you?
- How has this experience / activity impacted you?
- How will you use this information?
- Does this information / activity change the way that you think or support it? 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 6:30 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. 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.

### **EARLY WARNING**

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. Any student demonstrating a grade lower than average will be contacted by instructor.

### **PLAGIARISM**

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.

### **COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

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

### **DISABILITIES STATEMENT:**

If you have a question regarding a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please contact one of the college's Disability Service Providers as soon as possible. Chris Scarborough, (892-5751) generally works with students who have learning disabilities or attention deficit disorder. Kathleen Gray (885-2328) generally works with students who have physical, visual, hearing, and medical, mobility, and psychiatric disabilities or Matt Liscum (383-5240).

## **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 or late paper 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.

## **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, Deaf Culture and the community.
- To work with each individual to assist her / his to successfully complete this course.

Valuable resources:

[www.aslpro.com](http://www.aslpro.com)

[www.lifeprint.com](http://www.lifeprint.com)

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 TRCC AT 860-886-0177