

SYLLABUS

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FRIDAY  
5:00 – 7:45

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

FALL 2010

## **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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### 1. **Classroom Participation – 35%**

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)

2 exams 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. 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 6 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. **Outside activities – 15%** – Each student will be required to watch one full-length movie that you 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. . 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 1 page 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. 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 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.

### **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.

## **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](http://www.aslpro.com)  
[www.lifeprint.com](http://www.lifeprint.com)  
[www.signingsavvy.com](http://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 YOUR ARE PROGRESSING, YOUR GRADES, OR ANYHTING ELSE, PLEASE SEE ME RIGHT AWAY.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER CALL TRCC AT 860-886-0177