THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE NORWICH. CT 06360





SIGN LANGUAGE I 10649 K101-T01

INSTRUCTOR: Paula Rosenberg Bell, M.Ed.

TITLE: Sign Language I 3 Credits Mondays/Wednesdays: 1/21/09 - 5/18/09, 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM, Rm. D222

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to American Sign Language (ASL), its principles and performance. Specifically, students learn the vocabulary of signs, the concepts to which they refer inflection through body movement, facial expression and gesture, and finger spelling. Students learn to develop a personal style and to translate. (Course does not fulfill foreign language requirement.)

INTRODUCTION:

- Sign Language I is a beginning level course in the manual language used by the Deaf Community. Various modes of Sign Language are introduced with emphasis on American Sign Language and exposure to Manually Coded English.
- Focus is on student receptive and expressive fingerspelling and signing. Cultural aspects of Deafness are integrated in this beginner's course.

MAJOR COURSE ACTIVITIES:

- 1. Sign (expressively and/or receptively recognize) approximately 600 signed entities individually, or within the class situation, employing quizzes, games, demonstrations, and short conversations.
- 2. Write an essay briefly describing, comparing, and contrasting American Sign Language and Manually Coded English as discussed in this course. (This can be done in one sentence!)
- 3. Demonstrate to the class and instructor signed sentences and presentations for quizzes, exams, projects, and conversations.
- 4. Log three television shows (news, comedy, drama/action) viewed without sound, captions, or prior knowledge of material. Each program must be viewed for a minimum of 30 minutes. An account of each experience (focusing on feelings and reactions) is to be included in the log.
- 5. Class <u>will not</u> meet on April 13th and April 15th. You will have an option of attending a signed performance of RISD 14 YEARS IN REVIEW on April 2/3 (your choice of date) at the R.I. School for the Deaf in Providence, R.I., view a signed event* of your choice (subject to the instructor's approval), or attend an event within the Deaf Community.* A paper (BRIEF) describing your experience and feelings is required. Viewing of/participating in <u>an</u> event is a requirement. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence and a grade of 0 (zero) for the assignment (5% of the course grade). Viewing of/participating in an event and experience



paper must be completed by **May 13th**. Points will be taken off for spelling and grammatical errors. *A signed event could be viewing a movie with Deaf actors (i.e.**Children of a Lesser God, Mr. Holland's Opus, Love is Never Silent, Bridge to Silence, Beyond Silence, The Family Stone, Sweet Nothing In My Ear**), attending a performance by the Cridders, The Little Theater of the Deaf, The National Theater of the Deaf, watching TV programs (= 2 hrs.) with Deaf actors (ie **Sue Thomas,FB Eye**), attending a Deaf Focus group (DNEC), attending the monthly gathering at Starbuck's in Colchester, attending a signed religious service. You will be receiving lists of events as soon as I receive the listing.

COURSE

RESOURCE: Signing - How to Speak with Your Hands, Elaine Costello - available in the bookstore

VALUABLE www.aslpro.com RESOURCES: www.lifeprint.com www.theinterpretersfriend.com Academic Quick Study: American Sign Language (or similar) (available in the bookstore)

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

- ◇ HAVE FUN! This is a great language to learn!
- ◇ 11 quizzes (Lowest quiz grade will be dropped.)
- Mid-term exam (expressive/receptive/written) and final. The final will be an interactive exam (expressive/receptive) without a written component. There will be **no** make-up exams; failure to be present (barring certification of hospitalization for you or a member of your family or a death in the immediate family) for either of the exams will result in an exam grade of '0'.
- Class participation: Leaving class early will result in a lowered participation grade for <u>that</u> class; after <u>second</u> **absence** (<u>excused or unexcused</u>) from class, the participation grade for absences #1, #2 plus any additional absences will become "0" instead of "NA" [given initially]. Please note that <u>Participation</u> is 50% of your final grade.
- All assignments and their due dates are in the course agenda. Written assignments may be handed in early. The essay, logs, and event reaction paper (the **only** three written assignments), if late, will be graded at **one full letter grade** lower for each class day the assignment is late.
- It is the student's responsibility to check the paper syllabus and requirements for due dates as none of my information is on Blackboard.
- Short (minimum 1 minute, maximum 3 minutes per presenter) signed presentation. Failure to adhere to the minimum time requirements will result in the lowering of the grade by 2 full letter grades.
- Student must attend to learn. After two (2) unexcused / excused absences, grades for those classes will be entered as 0.
- Last day to withdraw and receive partial tuition refund is 2/3/09, last day to select audit is 2/17/09, last day to select P/F is 4/1/09, and last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" is 5/11/09. If you do not officially drop/withdraw, your grade will be entered as an 'F'.



 I will happily meet with students to provide extra help. I am available on Tuesdays or Thursdays after 3 PM by appointment. I can also meet with students on most Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:30 (again by appointment). See my contact card for e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

EVALUATION:

• Successful completion of all of the above requirements coupled with instructor observation. (Successful, as it relates to quizzes and exams, is a grade of 75% or higher.)

Participation:	50%
Quizzes:	15%
Midterm:	5%
Final:	10%
Presentation:	10%
Essays + Logs:	5%
Reaction Paper	5%

NOTE: This course complies with the guidelines set forth under the ADA. Should you need assistance and/or accommodations please privately notify me during the first two weeks of classes. Students with disabilities who may require special accommodations and support services are encouraged to also notify TRCC's ADA Coordinator within the same time frame.

