

SYLLABUS

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Thursday  
6:30 – 9:15  
Room – D215

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FALL 2012

## **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**

- MASTER ASL! LEVEL ONE by Jason E. Zinza (Required)
- MASTER ASL! FINGERSPELLING, NUMBERS, AND GLOSSING by Jason E. Zinza (Required)
- The instructor will provide supplemental materials.
- 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 Participation – 20%**

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. Students will be allowed 1 unexcused absence from class. Upon the second absence, you will receive a zero for a grade for that class, and any subsequent classes that are missed.

### **2 Midterm and Final – 30%**

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

**Midterm** – 10%

**Final** – 20% (Deaf awareness game 10%, exam 10%)

**The Deaf awareness game** - paperwork will be provided to explain the requirements of the game that is to be developed by you. This project is due Nov 29th

### **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 receptive skills, questions on the correct usage of ASL as well as Deaf Culture information provided in class and found in your textbook. Three of the quizzes will require an expressive component be completed. These expressive portions will be videotaped and handed in on via USB or DVD. Expressive quizzes will cover Units 1 – 3 individually

#### **4 TV Viewing Papers – 5%**

Each student is required to watch two television shows. Each show watched must be at least ½ hour long. Please watch shows that you are not familiar with. **Neither volume nor closed captioning may be used for the entire show.** You may pick shows related to the news, comedy show, documentary, or drama/action. SPORTING EVENTS, CARTOONS, “HOW TO” SHOWS, GAME SHOWS AN THE LIKE ARE **NOT ACCEPTABLE VIEWING CHOICES** After watching each show, a paper is to be written describing your experience. Each paper is required to be at least 1-1/2 page typed, double-spaced, using the following guidelines:

- Each paper is a representation of YOUR thoughts, YOUR feelings or beliefs, YOUR impressions, YOUR frustrations, YOUR successes 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 will be graded on spelling and grammar.

**Papers that do not satisfy the above requirements will be given back to the student to correct and will receive no credit until the criteria are satisfactorily completed.**

#### **5 Essay – 5%**

During the course of the semester, articles will be handed out and available on blackboard. You are to use these articles to assist with writing an essay. There are two categories of papers. Some are serious documentations of particular topics and others are less serious and often perceptions or experiences from Deaf individuals. Pick one paper from each category for the essay to compare and contrast. All papers will be graded on grammar and spelling.

The focus of the essay could be one of the following:

- How did this information change or impact the deaf/Deaf community?
- How you feel this information impacts the deaf/Deaf community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- How do you think the deaf/Deaf community feels about this topic?

#### **6 Presentation – 10%**

Students are required to give a presentation in sign language. This presentation may be on any topic of your choice. Presentation must be at least 2 minutes long and no longer than 3 minutes. The goal of the presentation is to be visual and expressive. Presentations will be videotaped.

#### **7 Through Deaf Eyes – 5%**

The movie “Through Deaf Eyes is to be watched. This movie can be watched through the TRCC video library. A questionnaire is to be completed with questions about the video. This questionnaire is due on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPECTATIONS AND INFORMATION

### ATTENDANCE:

Class begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. and procedures will not be delayed to accommodate latecomers. 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.

### 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.

### 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. Students with learning disabilities or attention deficit disorder should contact Chris Scarborough at 860.892.5751 or by email at [cscarborough@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:cscarborough@trcc.commnet.edu). Students with a physical, medical or psychiatric disability contact Kathleen Gray at 860.885.2328 or by email at [kgray@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:kgray@trcc.commnet.edu) or Matt Liscum at 860.383.5240 or by email at [mliscum@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:mliscum@trcc.commnet.edu).

### SUBMISSION POLICY

All assignments or presentations are expected to be submitted on the date they are due, by the end of the scheduled class including any videotaped materials. 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.  
There is no make up for any Cultural Events provided in class.  
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)

<http://lklivingston.tripod.com/essay/index.html>

<http://www.writeawriting.com/essay/essay-writing-tips-for-dummies/>

IF AT ANY TIME YOU HAVE CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS EXPECTED, HOW YOUR 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