

Introduction to American Sign Language

ASL 196

Instructor: Anne Ramsey

Office hours: None, contact through email

E-mail: amramsey@wsu.edu

Term: Fall, Mondays 5:30 PM – 7:50 PM

Required Text: *Signing Naturally*; Student workbook/Videotext, Level One.

Lentz, Mikos, and Smith.

ISBN: 0-915035-20-0

Required Text: *For Hearing People Only*, 3rd Edition, Matthew Moore

ISBN: 0-9634-016-3-7

Recommend Resources: ASL Dictionary

Course Description: This course introduces you to American Sign Language (ASL) grammar, fingerspelling, numbers, Deaf culture, and history. ASL is the language used predominantly by the Deaf communities in America and Canada. This is a beginning course which is designed to provide non-native speakers/signers an opportunity to study ASL as a foreign language. No previous knowledge of ASL is necessary.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of the course the student will:

1. Have a basic foundation of ASL through nonverbal communication, visual exercises, body language and facial expressions.
2. Develop conversational vocabulary and grammatical structures of ASL.
3. Develop basic receptive and expressive skills to communicate with a Deaf person.
4. Have a basic understanding of American Deaf Culture and the history.

Course Requirements:

1. The student should never use voice in the classroom, except during “voice” time. The student will learn, develop, and master ASL without the necessity of using voice. This class will be mainly taught in ASL without the use of spoken English.

2. Attendance is very important. Excessive absences, late or missed assignments, missed quizzes, tests, and evaluations, and inadequate class participation will affect the students' grade average.
3. All work is due on the date specified. Late assignments will be penalized for each day late and will not be accepted beyond one week after due date.
4. Twice during the semester you will be required to either work in a group or individually (depends on the assignment) to create, memorize, and present a "skit" or "narrative" based on a particular theme. You will be expected to follow the guidelines that I give you. I will give you specific feedback to help improve your skills.
5. Research paper: two pages minimum with at least three credible references, focused on a Deaf related topic.
6. There will be both announced and "pop" quizzes.
7. Final exam: Each of these will have three parts – Receptive skills, Theory (grammar and culture), and Expressive skills. The receptive skills are based on your workbook/videotext and classroom learning, and presented by professor. The theory part is based on the information presented in your workbook and classroom handouts. The expressive part asks you to sign using vocabulary, grammar and non-manual features taught in this course.

Extra Credit: You may do one (1) extra research paper to earn 25 points.

Evaluation:	Grades:
Class Interaction /Participation 40%	100-93 A
Presentations/Dialogues: 15%	92-90 A-
Research Paper 15%	89-87 B+
Quizzes 15%	86-83 B
Final Exam 15%	82-80 B-
	79-77 C+
	76-73 C
	72-70 C-
	69-67 D+
	66-63 D
	62-60 D-
	59-below F

**Please note: this syllabus is the current plan for the quarter. This plan may change based on whether more or less time needs to be devoted to a specific unit or topic. If there are any changes to due dates or timelines, I will let you know and give you an updated syllabus. *

Course Schedule

Week 1

Course Introduction: will be voiced in English.

Week 2

Unit 1—Introducing Oneself

Week 3

Unit 2—Exchanging Personal Information
For Hearing People Only Chapters: Forward

Week 4

Unit 2—Exchanging Personal Information
For Hearing People Only Chapters: 1-3

Week 5

Unit 3—Talking about Your Surroundings
For Hearing People Only Chapters: 4-6

Week 6

Unit 4—Telling Where You Live
Dialogue/Group Presentation due in class today
For Hearing People Only Chapters: 7-10

Week 7

Unit 5—Talking About Your Family
For Hearing People Only Chapters: 11-15

Week 8

Unit 5—Talking About Your Family
For Hearing People Only Chapters: 16-20

Week 9

Unit 5—Talking About Your Family
For Hearing People Only Chapters: 21-24

Week 10

Unit 6—Telling About Activities
For Hearing People Only Chapters: 25-30

Week 11

Unit 1-6 Cumulative Review
Dialogue/group assignment due/to be presented in class today.

Week 12

Teacher/Student Interview
***Receptive/Theory portion of your exam**
***Research papers due**

**Please note: this syllabus is the current plan for the quarter. This plan may change based on whether more or less time needs to be devoted to a specific unit or topic. If there are any changes to due dates or timelines, I will let you know and give you an updated syllabus. *