
MSU-Billings
College of Allied Health
Course Number: SIGN 101

COURSE RUBRIC AND TITLE: American Sign Language I

INSTRUCTOR: Catherine L. Copeland

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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

TEXT (S) Master ASL! Level One by Jason E. Zinza ISBN:978-1-881133-20-9 ([Students must have the DVD with Video](#))

Dates and Time of Course: Monday Evenings 5:30-8:00 p.m.

OF CREDITS STUDENTS WILL EARN: 3 credits

UNDERGRADUATE Credit

GRADED

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduces the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL) used by the Deaf Community, including: basic vocabulary, syntax, finger spelling, and grammatical non-manual signals. Student will focus on communicative competence. Student will develop gestural skills as a foundation for ASL enhancement. This course introduces cultural knowledge and increases understanding of the Deaf Community.

Develop readiness skills both expressively and receptively for learning ASL through nonverbal communication, visual exercises, body language, and facial expressions.

Develop basic conversational vocabulary and grammatical structures of ASL.

Develop an understanding of American Deaf Culture.

COURSE CONTENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Learning Objectives:

Content Focus: “The student will demonstrate receptive mastery of targeted, context-specific commands, questions, and statements in ASL with 80% or higher accuracy. To demonstrate mastery of this objective students will score an 80% or higher on all related classroom activities, quizzes and sections of the exams.

Content Focus: “Students will demonstrate expressive mastery of targeted, context-specific commands, questions, and statements in ASL” with 80% or higher accuracy on all classroom activities, quizzes and exams.

Content Focus: “Given a set of targeted vocabulary items drawn from class activities, the student will demonstrate receptive and expressive mastery of these vocabulary items” with 80% or higher accuracy. Vocabulary will not be given in isolation, but will be incorporated into every activity that occurs in the classroom.

Content Focus: “Students will demonstrate receptive and expressive mastery of targeted conversation-facilitating behaviors (again, slow, what etc) and conversation regulating behaviors (attention getting devices, turn-taking signals with 80% accuracy. Students will demonstrate mastery of these behaviors throughout dialogues, made-up conversations, and interactions with the Deaf instructor and interviewing three Deaf adults.

Content Focus: “Students will be exposed to short narratives, stories, etc. in ASL that are told by the teacher and by Deaf users of ASL. Students will be exposed and then will answer questions on three quizzes. These questions will be true/false multiple choice and fill in the blank. Students will be expected to score a 80% or higher on each of the quizzes.

Content Focus: “Student will demonstrate the ability to initiate, conduct, and terminate a short context-specific conversation with Deaf users of ASL other than the teacher” with 80% or higher accuracy.

Content Focus: Students will write a three -page report on a famous Deaf adult. After viewing an internet site, students will write a paper regarding one of the famous Deaf adults found on that site. The paper will receive a grade of 80 or above.

Content Focus: “Students will demonstrate receptive and expressive readiness for acquiring ASL” by participating in at least 80% of the classroom exercises on receptive and expressive readiness.

Content Focus: Students will know “the history of ASL, the Deaf community, ASL and its relation to other forms of signing of the diglossic continuum. After receiving written information, students will take quizzes on the above information and will perform with 80% accuracy or higher.

COURSE SCHEDULE: (Please provide a detailed schedule of course sessions, activities, and topics covered. The schedule should give a day by day description of class activities and assignments.) ****These dates are subject to change*****

Week 1- Requirements of the course, History of ASL, Introductions, Five Parameters of ASL, ASL Grammar, gestural communication Game

Week 2- Review of ASL grammar, Unit One Vocabulary

Week 3- Unit One

Week 4- Unit 2

Week 5- Unit 2- Deaf Event

Week 6-Unit 3

Week 7-Unit 3

Week 8-Midterm

Week 9- Unit 4

Week 10- Unit 4

Unit 11- Unit 5

Unit 12 Unit 5

Unit 13 Review for Final Exam

Unit 14 Final Exam

COURSE POLICES: Attendance and class participation is imperative. If you have to be absent, please ask a classmate for what you missed. It will be up to you to learn from your DVD/book any vocabulary or information that was missed. I would recommend that you exchange phone numbers with a class mate.

ACCOMODATIONS: If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs.

Assessment Process:

The grading scale will be calculated on a traditional 90, 80, 70 scale. There is a possibility of earning a total of 700 Points for this class. In order for a student to earn an “A”, each must earn 90% of the 700 points. ($700 \times .90 = 630$ or higher) **Student must earn 490 points or higher in order to advance to Sign II/III. If the student is close to the 490 points, some additional**

assignments can be given and the final exam may be retaken to pull the grade up to 473. If the student has earned 489 or less points, Sign I will have to be retaken.

Below is the weighting of each assignment for the course:

Quizzes and Exams will be given periodically to test for understanding of concepts recently taught. Mid-term and Final Exams will be given in order to check if students are retaining information and are able to integrate the information taught throughout the semester. The midterm and final exam will be worth 100 points each. **250 Points**

Internet Assignments

Students will be given two websites to look up: www.nad.org and www.rid.org. Students will be given a list of questions to answer regarding these websites. **(25 points x 2= 50) This could be substituted for another internet assignment.**

Homework Assignments- Each week a homework assignment will be given. (10 weeks x 25 points each = 250)

Famous Deaf Person Paper

Students will choose a famous Deaf person and analyze their contribution to the Deaf community and to society as a whole. Students will write a minimum of a 3 page paper on this person. Students will be graded for grammar and punctuation. Students should answer questions such as, “What is the person famous for?” “Where did the person grow up?” History of childhood. “How has this person contributed to the Deaf community?” **100 points**

Journal/ Deaf Club Social

Students will journal their experiences and exposure with the Deaf Community. They will attend at least one event with the Deaf community. **50 points**

Total Points

Total possible points earned for assignments are 650 points. In addition, 25% of the final grade will be based on how well the student is able to produce the language as well as how well they understand the grammar and syntax of the language. This will be assessed during the final exam.