

Xavier University
Department of Modern Languages
American Sign Language – Fall 2009
ASLN 101

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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:30 in room 912 Schott Hall and MWF by appt. from 9:00 – 9:30
912 Schott Hall

Prerequisites: none

Required Text: VISTA Signing Naturally, Level 1 student workbook and videotext by Smith, Lentz and Mikos

Welcome to Xavier's first level course in the visual language of American Sign Language (ASL). This elementary sign language class is designed to provide a foundation for beginning signers wishing to study ASL and learn about Deaf culture. It includes principles, methods and techniques for communicating with deaf individuals who sign. The focus is development of receptive and expressive sign skills, manual alphabet, numbers and sign vocabulary. An overview of syntax, grammar and culture is provided.

Course Objectives:

Students who satisfactorily complete this course should be able to:

Develop use of and expand knowledge of signs in context.

Develop manual alphabet and number sign skills.

Combine signs, numbers and fingerspelling into meaningful ASL, in both expressive and receptive communication modes.

Learn the linguistic and cultural material in the text and course readings.

Gain an understanding of Deaf culture in addition to basic language.

Complete Units 1 – 6 in Signing Naturally

Blackboard/email:

A) Our class uses blackboard. There are a variety of papers and assignment information located under our Blackboard class. You are REQUIRED to check our class on a regular basis. In addition, you are required to print and have available at all times all of the documents listed under DOCUMENTS in our class.

B) I submit all grades via the Blackboard grading system. You are able to view your current grade in this class at all times throughout the semester.

C) I email information about our class on a regular basis. Be sure you have your Xavier email address forwarding emails to a personal email or check your XU email on a regular basis. You are expected to check for emails pertaining to our class on a regular basis.

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and participation:

A language requires practice and study. Students are expected to attend all classes. Participation in class activities and dialogues is required along with completion of exercises in class workbook. In order to effectively learn the language, you must participate in all activities asked of you in class. You are expected to be on time to class. Every minute you are late effects your ability to understand the language and interrupts the concentration of the others in class. It is also rude and disrespectful to both the instructor and class if you are late. Attendance will be taken each class.

Attendance is mandatory for this class. Due to the nature of the curriculum, it is impossible to learn outside of the class setting. All information related to the course is explained and taught during class. Therefore, missing a class will set you considerably behind. Please review the attendance policy below:

1) Your first absence is excused

2) Each additional absence (void of valid excuse/proof of absence) will result in a 10 pt. decrease from your participation/attendance grade.

3) Being late to class is unacceptable. Two tardies = one absence, resulting in a 10 pt. decrease from your participation/attendance grade.

4) If you are involved in sports, it is your responsibility to make me aware of the dates you will be absent. Providing me with a schedule pre-season is fine, but you are also required to remind me the class prior to any sport's absence so I can adequately mark your following absence as excused.

2) Assignments:

1) All assignments must be handed to the instructor on the due dates.

- 2) Late assignments will be penalized 25% of assignment grade for each class date late.
- 3) If you have a planned absence due to a sport's activity or other excusable reason, on a date when an assignment is due, the assignment is due the class prior to your absence.
- 4) Assignments sent via email are not accepted. Please place assignments in my mailbox in the Modern Languages office (906 Schott Hall) or send assignment with another student to class.

3) Language use:

The target language (ASL) must be used in class. You are NOT ALLOWED to speak in English or use your voice during class, unless you ask permission to do so. Students are expected to respect this language and culture. Unnecessary voicing in class will result in points lost. Only the language of American Sign Language is to be used in this classroom **– at all times, including before class and during breaks** (You may use your voice outside of the classroom during breaks).

4) Tests:

There are NO make-up tests. There are 5 tests, of which the lowest grade is dropped. If you miss a test, that will be the one dropped from your average. Because tests are signed by the instructor, it is impossible to leave the test with the registrar's office for make-up. Dropping a test grade allows for unplanned absences on test dates. Also, remember that missing a class, whether there is a test or not, will result in points deducted from your class participation grade.

5) Community Activity:

You are required to attend one event of the Deaf community. After attending the event, a 3 page typed report on the activity must be turned in by the due date. In the paper, be sure to list the name of the event, the date you attended and where it was held. Discuss your experience and opinion of the event. Be as detailed as possible, especially regarding how you felt during the experience. You may attend an event at your convenience; however, paper MUST be turned in no later than the assigned date. Do not wait until the last week, as events are not always consistently offered in the Deaf community. No excuses will be accepted. Do not procrastinate! Specific information regarding the project, as well as options for community activities, will be provided in class. **Due April 8th.**

A sampling of choices of activities to attend:

- 1) Silent dinners Starbucks at Rookwood. 3rd Friday of each month – 2692 Madison Rd. Cincinnati
- 2) Vineyard Community Church, Springdale. - 10:00 service interpreted every Sunday.
- 3) St. Rita's School for the Deaf Chapel – 11:15 Sunday Mass. (church on second floor of school).
- 4) Deaf Club of Greater Cincinnati – CINGO – 3938 Spring Grove Ave, Northside. 541-6568
- 5) Friendship Baptist Church – Wed. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 10am, 7:30 p.m. Call first – 741-7017
- 6) Deaf Missionary Church, Mason – Sunday service 11:00.
- 7) Cameron Church of the Deaf – 421-7088, 1301 E. McMillian

Silent Dinners, Starbucks and Vineyard Community Church services are ALWAYS standard dates and times. Other events, activities and services listed here are subject to change. Please call before hand to confirm attendance of deaf individuals before attending.

6) ASL Live Lab requirement

You are required to attend five hours in the ASL Live Lab, located on the 10th floor of Schott Hall prior to the end of the semester. Upon completion of the 5 lab hours, please submit a 3 page reflection paper sharing your thoughts and experiences in the lab during your five hours of lab time. Using first person is appropriate, as you should be speaking directly about your experiences during the 5 hours. Be sure to follow all typing requirements as stated in the syllabus. The lab is open according to the following schedule:

Lab schedule for Spring semester is as follows:

Tuesdays 4 – 6pm: Starting 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20

Wednesdays 6 – 8pm: Starting 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/14, 10/21

Mondays 4 – 6pm: Starting 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30

Thursdays 6 – 8 pm: Starting 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/3

Sundays 6 – 8 pm: 11/1, 11/15

In order to receive assigned points for the lab requirements, **you must attend all 5 hours of the lab.** There are no partial points given for time under 5 hours spent in the lab. Points for the lab will also not be given if the final reflection paper is not turned in.

7) Research Project:

You will be required to research a topic related to deafness and write a research paper on the chosen topic. The length of the research paper is to be a minimum of 5 typed pages, double spaced. Use of professional journals is recommended. In this project, unlike the Journal Review, internet resources are also accepted. Further information regarding this project will be provided in class.

8) Sound and Fury reflection paper

Upon completion of Sound and Fury movie, you will be required to write a 2 page reflective paper on the movie. Further details will be provided in class.

9) Workbook:

Read assigned material and complete video workbook exercises (units 1-6). Workbook assignments MUST be completed prior to attending the class (see homework explanation on class schedule). The expectation is that you become aware of the material, via your videotext and workbook, prior to each class. I will assume that you are familiar with signs that were assigned in the workbook for each class session. Failure to complete the workbook and videotext exercise will greatly affect your grade and your ability to understand the material. You must bring your workbook with you to **each** class.

10) Typing requirements:

All typed assignments must meet the following guidelines or points will be deducted:

- A) Title page must be separate from text of paper. Do NOT put your name, date or other information on the first page of text. All information aside from body of paper is to be included on a separate cover sheet. The first page of text should begin at the top of the paper and be a full page length.
- B) Bibliography information is to be included on a separate piece of paper to be included at the end of your paper. The bibliography and cover sheet are not included in the length requirements of the paper.
- C) All papers are to be double spaced, 1 inch margins on all sides, 12 font, Times New Roman.
- D) **Do not add extra space between paragraphs.**
- E) I know the period trick. *****

Course Evaluation:

5 in class tests (units 1 – 5) - 75 points each (drop lowest) = 300 points

Community activity - 100 points

Live lab participation/reflection paper- 100 points

Research project - 150 points

Sound and Fury reflection paper - 75 points

Attendance – 75 points

EXAM - 150 points

Total points: 950

Grading:

A = 93 - 100% (884 – 950 pts)

A- = 90 – 92.9% (855 – 883 pts)

B+ = 88 - 89.9% (836 - 854 pts)

B = 83 – 87.9% (789 - 835 pts)

B- = 80 – 82.9% (760 -788 pts)

C+ = 78 – 79.9% (741 - 759 pts)

C = 73 – 77.9% (694 - 740 pts)

C- 70 – 72.9% (665 - 693pts)

D+ = 68 – 69.9% (646 -664pts)

D = 63 – 67.9% (599- 645pts)

D – 60 – 62.9% (570 - 598pts)

569 pts or below = failing

Class Schedule – Please see syllabus #2 attached.

