

XAVIER UNIVERSITY
Department of Modern Languages
American Sign Language ASLN 201 01
Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:15

The instructor reserves the right to amend or deviate from this syllabus

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Office Hours: by appointment, usually before or after class.

Course Description Welcome to Xavier's second level course in the visual gestural language of ASL! This course is designed to offer an overview of the linguistic and sociolinguistic information of ASL. There will be an emphasis on communication skills in this language and cultural awareness of the Deaf Community. All lessons are presented in ASL with little or no voicing.

REQUIRED TEXT: **VISTA Signing Naturally level 2, Student Workbook and Videotext by Smith, Lentz and Mikos. (1992) Dawn Sign Press.**

A sign language dictionary would be helpful, but is not required.

PRE-REQUISITES

Successful completion of ASLN 102, or instructor permission.

Basic computer skills including word processing, Xavier email, Blackboard and use of the Internet.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Students who satisfactorily complete this course will*

- 1. expand on all expressive skills developed in ASL year 1. (Sign vocabulary, fingerspelling/number speed and non-manual behaviors)**
expand on all receptive skills developed in ASL year 1. (Sign vocabulary, fingerspelling/number speed and non-manual behaviors)
- 2. increase knowledge of ASL grammar.**
- 3. deepen understanding of Deaf culture.**
- 4. demonstrate writing skills necessary to document new signs.**

CLASS SUCCESS

PUT YOUR CELL PHONE AWAY! Though you think you may be able to discreetly send and receive text messages, you can't. Points will be deducted.

Attend every class.

Attendance is required, and is a significant portion of your grade.

Absences (excused or unexcused) totaling more than one will result in points being deducted from your grade.

Arriving late and/or leaving early are very distracting in an ASL class and will count

toward absences. Two lateness/early departures will equal one absence.

Be respectful of the language.

If the instructor is not voicing, the students are not permitted to voice.

Points will be deducted if students use voice at inappropriate times. If another student asks you what is being signed, it does not help them and distracts you if you voice for them.

Participate in every class.

Language courses are highly interactive, and your level of engagement will directly affect how well you are able to make use of expressive and receptive ASL.

Excellent class participation is shown by not using your voice but signing at all times. You should engage in class activities willingly and cooperatively with other students.

Repeatedly using voice or whispering during class time will negatively affect your participation grade. If you choose not to complete an assignment, your participation grade will also be affected.

Be prepared for class.

You are responsible for all of the material in the workbook and any additional material presented in class. We may not go over all of the exercises in class, but you are responsible for every exercise for the covered units. If you have any questions, be sure to bring them to my attention at the beginning of class. If you need assistance during the week, please email me any questions and I will cover them during the next class meeting.

The instructor will inform students what is expected to be covered during the following class. This will give students the opportunity to prepare for class – especially for signed exercises.

Students will be expected to sign the dialogues from each chapter (pp 1, 35, 59) in class.

Complete assignments on time.

Late assignment will be accepted for a 25% reduction in grade,

Please plan to complete videotaped, partner assignments and community assignments early. There may be camera problems, difficulty getting to a community event or illness that will affect completing assignment according to your own timeline.

Work on ASL every day.

By now you know that daily work will yield significantly better learning than cramming.

While cramming for exams may be an option in some classes, I do not recommend it for learning a foreign language.

Study and review for quizzes and 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.

Study Buddy

You should have one or two people that you work with on a consistent basis during the week between class meetings. You should meet with your study buddy 2 ½ - 3 hours per week, combined with individual study time and time in the Deaf Lab.

E-mail

PLEASE CONTACT ME VIA XAVIER E-MAIL ACCOUNT WITH CONCERNS.

When E-mailing instructor, please include inquiry, your class and day in subject line.

Ex (presentation, 201 Wed 6:30)

Check your school e-mail. If there is an emergency situation that warrants the need to cancel class, I will send an e-mail to you via your XU account.

If you have questions about assignments, upcoming Deaf events or grades, please check the syllabus and blackboard before sending an e-mail to the instructor.

ASSIGNMENT SPECIFICS

Typed assignments

Deaf Event, Deaf Website, Deaf lab and Book Report.

When you are to turn in these typed assignments, please use the following standard: Times New Roman, font 12, single spaced, one inch margins. Points will be deducted for not adhering to the standard.

All typed assignment should be sent to the digital drop box via Blackboard. Clearly put your name, and assignment when submitting.

Recorded assignments

When you record an assignment you will have the following options available to show your recording: a laptop with DVD and USB port, as well as a standard VHS player. If you need anything else to view your assignment, you are responsible for bringing it to class. Please check that it works before the assignment is due. You may test the equipment the week before if you so choose.

When you record, keep the following in mind to have optimal viewing of your video : If these guidelines are not adhered, there will be points deducted from your grade.

- Have a plain background that contrasts with your skin tone. A backdrop would be appropriate.
- Don't record in front of windows or other light source.
- Record away from distractions and people talking.
- Wear solid colored clothing that contrasts with your skin tone.
- Record from the waist up, so that the top of head and an appropriate distance of signing space to the sides are viewable.
- If you are signing alone, face the camera
- If you are signing with a partner, don't turn to the side or face the camera head on, but turn between the two positions.
- Signed material should be memorized.
- If for some reason, your recording does not work, or your partner is not present, you will be expected to sign live on the due date for a reduced grade.

Blackboard

Blackboard is updated often. Take note of the following important areas, though other areas are consistently used.

- Announcements
Check Blackboard for announcements and assignment information.
- Gradebook
Your grades will be updated regularly.
- Discussion Board.
Students are expected to participate in Blackboard's Discussion Board at least one time per month, (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov) for a total of 4 *substantive* messages. The instructor will post questions/threads and anticipate your comments. However, you are welcome (and encouraged) to post your own threads/questions any time if it will benefit other class members. If you do not understand presented material, this would be the forum to ask questions. I will respond to posts on a regular basis.
When using the discussion board, please be respectful by always using appropriate language and netiquette with your classmates and facilitator- please don't be rude or SHOUT! If you are unsure as to what is proper etiquette on the internet, here is one of many websites that address the issue: <http://www.netmanners.com/>
- Wiki
There is a wiki page for each week of class. These pages are for student use to add new signs that you have encountered in class and during Deaf Lab. Please add and review these pages often. Click the edit button in the upper right hand corner to add to the page.
Contribution to the wiki pages does not count toward your discussion board requirements.
Go to youtube and view 'Wikis in plain English' to see how to use wikis. Here's the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dnL00TdmLY>
- Deaf Events
I will update Deaf events as I hear of them.
- Other Folders
There will be other folders that you should investigate. When I add a new folder, or something else of significance, I will post an announcement.

Deaf Event:

You are to attend one activity in the Deaf Community, not just an interpreted event. You should interact with the Deaf people. My recommendation is to attend a silent dinner at an area mall on the 1st Friday of the month. Type a 1 page reaction, including your ease of communication with the Deaf people and their ease of communication with you and anything you find significant. Attach the signature of a Deaf person, not an interpreter. Be prepared to discuss in class.

I will update you on events as I become aware of them.

This website will tell you the most up to date events. www.deaftattletale.weebly.com

Deaf Lab:

You have to opportunity to work with Deaf people in the Deaf lab on the XU campus.

This is an important part of your understanding of how ASL is used.

You are required to attend 5 hours of Deaf Lab. Please note the 3 dates when hours are to be completed. There is no partial credit for lab.

The hours are 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

You may attend the lab at any of the above listed times, but note that activities will be focused toward 102 and 201 students during the last hour of each lab session.

After completing the 5 required hours, write a one page summary, single spaced, of your experiences in the lab

Lab Protocol:

- Introduce yourself to lab coordinator following Deaf culture standards.
- No cell phones/texting allowed. Students who use cell phones or talk during lab time will be brought to the attention of the instructor.
- No talking to neighbors/side conversations allowed. SIGN only.
- A student must participate during lab times in order to obtain credit for the lab session. Sitting and watching everyone else does NOT count. This will be monitored.

Deaf Website:

You will research on the internet and find a cool website that is focused on the Deaf. It should be a fun site, not necessarily one that has products or services for the Deaf. It should be hosted by a Deaf person. You will write a one page summary of the site, highlighting the different areas of the site and what you found interesting. You will share the site with us in class, using ASL. Please have a couple sites in mind in case someone else chooses the same site. Please e-mail a link to your chosen site by week 2, or before. I will approve your choice by e-mail.

Sign Journal:

Students must keep a pocket size sign journal documenting new signs that they encounter, outside of class. Each journal entry should contain the English gloss and a description of how to produce the sign, in a way that you understand. Include circumstances of where you learned the new sign.

Journals will be collected the last week of classes and should contain 30 new signs per semester.

Take the journal to Deaf events. Keep this journal for all future ASL sign classes.

Biography:

You will present narrative highlighting significant events in a famous Deaf person's life. You will tell life events by referring to age. You will be assigned a person.

Book Report:

Students are required to read one – three chapters of an approved book relating to the topic of deafness. (30 page minimum) You will type a 2-3 page report on the chapter of the book you read. The report should include a summary of the book, what the insights the student gained from the book about what it is like to be d/Deaf and how d/Deaf people are perceived, and if s/he would recommend this book to a fellow classmate and why. Post your book choice on the discussion board. Each student will read a different book.

You will make a 4 –5 minute signed presentation of your book. Have questions prepared to stimulate class discussion. You may choose to have visuals, charts, power point. If you use a power point, don't write out your entire presentation, bullet points only. Points deducted if less that required time.

Summaries must include a citation of the book, (author, publisher publication date, and page numbers) according to APA standards.

Assignments:

Read assigned materials, watch the DVD and complete the exercises in the workbook. The workbook will not be checked during every class, but certain assignments will be checked. It is important to bring your workbook to each class in order to show work and to participate and receive all of your points.

Other assignments will be given in class several times during the quarter. Practice the signed situations presented in the book and be prepared to do for the class.

EXAM

Please note the exam dates.

Expressive Videotaping:

Your expressive exam will be on video tape. You will have at least one week to prepare and record this. You will work with a partner to video tape yourself. This is designed to evaluate your expressive skills on the structures and vocabulary from each unit. You will get more details on this project. You must record on a standard VHS videotape or with an adaptive cassette to fit in standard VHS player.

We will watch the videos in class. You will evaluate all students.

Class 2	Sep 2	Unit 13	book for report pp 1-3
Class 3	Sep 9		Sign Dialogue unit 13p 1 pp. 4-7 , 16-17 pp. 8-12
Class 4	Sep 16		pp. 12-15 Hour 1 of Deaf lab complete
Class 5	Sep 23	Unit 13 Test Unit 14	pp. 35 - 36 Deaf Event due
Class 6	Sep 30	Unit 14	pp. 37 – 39 sign dialogue p 35
Class 7	Oct 7	Unit 14	pp. 40 - 42 Hours 2-3 of Deaf lab complete
Class 8	Oct 14	Unit 14	pp. 43 - 44 Website choice
Class 9	Oct 21	Unit 14 Unit 14 Test	pp. 59-61
Class 10	Oct 28	Unit 15	Sign dialogue unit 15 p 59 pp. 62- 65
Class 11	Nov 4	Unit 15	Deaf Website presentation pp. 66-71
Class 12	Nov 11	Unit 15 Exp video info	Biography pp. 72-73
Class 13	Nov 18	Unit 15	
	Nov 25	Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class	
Class 14	Dec 2	Unit 15 Exam review	Book Report Due
Class 15	Dec 9	Unit 15 test	Hours 4-5 of Deaf lab complete Deaf Lab hours paper due Expressive video tape due
	Dec 16	Exam	