

American Sign Language II

ASLA 150.01

Tuesday and Thursday 10:50am to 12:05pm

Room: Mac 32

Spring 2012

Instructor: Gerald “Jerry” Covell

Email: gerald.covell@mac.edu

Office: MacMurray Hall, Room 24

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays – 12:05pm to 12:30pm

1:45pm to 2:30pm

Texts: Zinza, Jason (2006) Master ASL! – Level One. Burtonsville, MD: Sign Media, Inc.

Other Materials: The instructor will also provide occasional handouts and readings in addition to the required texts. These additional materials will be given out once. If lost, it will be each individual’s responsibility to get or make additional copies.

1. Course Synopsis

A. Course Description

Focuses on the continued comprehension of American Sign Language, Deaf culture, and the Deaf community. Classroom activities are conducted without voice. Visual learning and cultural appropriateness are stressed. A variety of instructional methods are used to focus on the functions of everyday language and includes the use of a variety of registers in ASL and MCE. The development of conversational skills and presentation skills through interactive contexts is emphasized. Students will observe classroom and extracurricular activities at Illinois School for the Deaf. Required weekly language laboratory. Prerequisite: ASLA 100 with a grade of C or better.

B. Course Objectives

- 1) Learn and develop more American Sign Language skills
 - Fingerspelling
 - Sign Production
 - Sentences
 - Facial Expressions
 - Body Language
- 2) Learn and develop more conversational skills in American Sign Language
 - Receptive Skills
 - Expressive Skills
 - Interactive Skills
- 3) Learn grammatical features of American Sign Language
- 4) Learn and utilize basic cultural behaviors when conversing in American Sign Language
- 5) Develop appreciation of American Sign Language as a visual language.

2. Attendance Requirements

The purpose of regular and prompt attendance to scheduled classes is to demonstrate student’s learning process in this course. Due to the nature of this class:

- A. Missing more than two (2) classes will result in a failing grade for the class.
- B. Three (3) tardiness will result in missing one day of class.
 1. A student will be considered tardy after the instructor begins lecturing.
- C. There will be no make-up quizzes, tests or assignments without documentation of emergency nature.

3. Participation in Class

I cannot emphasize the importance of class participation. This is not a class where I am extremely interested in weeding out students. The purpose of this class is for students to learn about my American Sign Language. I have a vested interest in emphasizing to students the importance of understanding and appreciating American Sign Language. It is recommended that students take advantage of the instructor's knowledge and experience of this language. No questions are silly or stupid. The more questions asked, the more information and understanding will be gained. Think of this class as a two-way street! Therefore, participation in class cannot be taken lightly as it is counted as your daily grade.

4. Assignments

- The students are required to view the DVD, review and come prepared prior to class.
- The students are required to attend five (5) deafness related events. The students are expected to write a report about those events. These papers must be one-page long and typed. The report should include: 1) What, where and when the event took place; 2) What was happening; 3) Your personal impressions; 4) What you have learned; 5) Any other comments or observations.
- The students are required to watch five (5) ASL videos in the library and write a Video Reaction Report for each video. Such report should include the name and title of the video; your personal impressions; what you have learned; and any other comments or observations.

5. Class Etiquette

This topic is also a cultural issue. In order to make the classroom more effective and visually accessible for everyone, the following must be done:

- a. The desks are re-arranged for best viewing of everyone.
- b. Before you talk (sign), make sure everyone is looking at you.
- c. Always give your full attention to whoever is talking (signing).
- d. Ask the person to repeat or slow down if not following.
- e. No spoken conversations are allowed in class. Sign at all times.

6. Reasonable Accommodations

If you have a disability or any other special circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require exam and/or other types of accommodations, please contact the Disability Support Services early in the semester so that accommodations can be made in a timely manner. The Disability Support Services is located on the first floor of the Education Complex.

7. Academic Dishonesty Policy and Inappropriate Ethical/Moral Conduct

The penalty for any form of academic dishonesty (cheating and/or plagiarism) or inappropriate ethical/moral conduct is failure of this course and a possible expulsion from the college.

8. The Center for Learning Excellence (CLE)

The Center for Learning Excellence, located in the Education Complex on 2nd floor Room 208, offers free tutoring in a variety of subjects, including writing and math. It is a great place to go to study because help is available right when you need it! Students doing group work find plenty of room to work together with access to computers and printing. You may also find many resources available via the MacMurray website at: <http://www.mac.edu/cle/index.asp>. For more information, contact Director, Jenny Briney at 479-7178.

9. Course Evaluation

Grades are based on:

5 Social Reports (20 points each) - 100

5 Video Reports (20 points each) – 100
4 Quizzes (25 points each) – 100
5 Written Exams (50 points each) - 250
3 Expressive Exams (60 points each) – 180
Midterm Exam- 120
Final Exam - 150
TOTAL POINTS: 1,000

Grades will be calculated as follows:

900 – 1000 – A
800 – 899 – B
700 – 799 – C
600 – 699 – D
599 and below – F

10. Course Outline (May be changed at the discretion of the instructor).

January

12 – syllabus review, introduce each other and review Unit 1-5
17 – Unit 6
19 – Unit 6
24 – Unit 6
26 – Review Unit 6
31 – Exam Unit 6

February

2 – Unit 7
7 – Unit 7
9 – Unit 7
14 – Review Unit 7
16 – Exam Unit 7
21 – Unit 8
23 – Unit 8
28 – Review for Midterm

March

1 – Midterm (March 2 MIDTERM GRADE DUE)
6 – Spring Break
8 – Spring Break
13 – Unit 8
15 – Review Unit 8
20 – Exam Unit 8
22 – Unit 9 (March 23 – Last day to withdraw class)
27 – Unit 9
29 – Unit 9

April

3 – Review Unit 9
5 – Exam Unit 9
10 – Unit 10
12 – Unit 10
17 – Unit 4 10
19 – Review Unit 10
24 – Exam Unit 10; Review for Final Exam (Last day of class)
27 – Final Exam at 12noon to 2pm