American Sign Language I (SPHS 1040-001)  
Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences  
University of North Texas  
Summer I 2013

Instructor: Dori Reeves  
Office: Speech and Hearing Center Rm. 152  
Class Time: M-Th noon-1:50  
Classroom: BLB 060  
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Course Outline

1. Introduction to Deafness  
2. Unit 1: Introductions and Personal Information  
3. Unit 2: Learning ASL  
4. Unit 3: Politeness  
5. Unit 4: Descriptions  
6. Unit 5: Requests  
7. Unit 6: Expressing Yourself  
8. Unit 7: More Descriptions  
9. Unit 8: Family and Friends  
10. Unit 9: More Descriptions  
11. Unit 10: At Home and Daily Living  
12. Unit 11: Food and Food Shopping  
13. Unit 12: Offering and Declining

Course Purpose:  
American Sign Language I is an elementary course in American Sign Language utilizing a meaningful communicative approach to teaching language. Common communicative events and interactions are employed to gain knowledge of a basic vocabulary and grammar of ASL. The course includes development of social linguistic behaviors appropriate within the cultural diversity functioning in the Deaf Community, as well as cultural issues with that same community.

Course Objectives:

- Students will learn to use a variety of simple phrases and sentences in one-to-one and small group conversations including the use of technology.  
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of American Deaf culture.  
- Students will use ASL to learn more about other subject areas that are not related to ASL or Deaf culture, either within the ASL class or in ASL immersion experiences.  
- Students will compare and contrast ASL with English.  
- Students will begin to use ASL in non-classroom conversational experiences such as with the Deaf community.

Required Text:  
Videotext & Workbook:  
Learning American Sign Language, Levels 1 and 2 (2nd Edition)  

Course Requirements:

Students will be responsible for all information in the assigned textbook, lectures, handouts and videos shown in class. Participation is expected during class discussions and activities. There will be no cell phones or computers permitted during class time. Please make sure that your phones are off when class begins. We will have silent days and silent activities in which you will be required to sign.

There will be four unit tests during the semester and a final expressive interview which will be comprehensive. Do to the nature of this course, attendance is required, as ASL is a visual language and requires interaction with the instructor and classmates. Attendance will be 5% of your grade. You will be allowed one excused absence during the semester. An excused absence is a note from a doctor, employer or a funeral. Must have documentation in order for it to be excused.

This semester, students will have an opportunity to choose which expressive sign language feedback method fits their schedules. The first option requires attending Zera's Coffee Company for our weekly coffee time. We will be there from 2:00-4:00 on Tuesdays. You will be required to attend Zera's for 5 weeks for one hour a week. If you commit to this assignment, you must attend every week. If you are unable to come due to illness or work schedule, you can make up only one week but you must provide documentation. There is a Field Experience form that you will need to be bring with you to Zera's every week and have it signed by myself or my TA, Lindsay. These hours will be 10% or your grade. In conjunction with the weekly field experience will be one sign observations during the weekly coffee chats. There is a sign observation form on Blackboard with a rubric for the instructor to evaluate the student. This feedback will be graded and worth 5% of your grade. Your observation will be done at Zera's after the required hour is complete. The student will give the observation form to the instructor and ask that they be observed for 5 minutes while conversing with others in sign language.

The second option requires that the student makes one 3-5 minute video in sign language. There will be a form and rubric to follow. The video will be 15 percent of your grade. You may sign whatever you would like except a song. Some ideas could be your family tree, a children's story, vacation stories, family stories, etc. Your video will be due on a specific date and will be submitted on either YouTube or uploaded to Blackboard. I will not accept CD's, DVD's or flashdrives.

The above requirements will be calculated as follows:

- 4 unit tests..................................................60 percent (each worth 15 percent)
- final expressive interview..................20 percent
- 1 video project.................................15 percent
  or
- Field experience and observation....15 percent
- Attendance............................................5 percent

Examinations:

Examinations must be taken at the assigned time. No makeup exams will be given unless a student has a note from the doctor or is in athletics. If it is a school related absence, the student will be required to take the test before the next class. Students who miss examinations will be given a zero. Exam dates are listed below. We will begin scheduling final interviews in the next few days.
Dates to remember:

Test 1 Introduction to Deafness and (Units 1-3)........June 10
Test 2 (Units 4-6).....................................................................June 17
Test 3 (Units 7-9).....................................................................June 24
Test 4 (Units 10-12).................................................................July 3
Sign observation........................................................................June 25
Video project .............................................................................June 27

Scheduled final interviews .................................................July 5th from 8-4

Disability Accommodation:

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities (cf. American with Disabilities ACT and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act). We encourage all students with disabilities to register with ODA. If you need any accommodation for a disability, present a written request to the instructor on or before the 12th class day. If you experience any problems in getting reasonable accommodations, contact the department chair or ODA.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of “F” in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm.

Student Behavior in the Classroom:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr