

Classical Cottage School

ASL 101 - American Sign Language I

Meeting Days & Times: Thursdays, 9:35AM – 10:35AM

2021/2022

Instructor: Becky Marks

Phone: 540-683-1469 (this is my cell phone therefore you may also text me).

Email: whatsupaslva@gmail.com

Course Description:

Introduces the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL) used by the Deaf Community, including basic vocabulary, syntax, fingerspelling, and grammatical non-manual signals. Focuses on communicative competence. Introduces cultural knowledge and increases understanding of the Deaf Community.

General Course Purpose

To introduce students to both the practical elements of producing and comprehending American Sign Language (ASL) in common discourse and the Deaf people who use this language.

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate ability to use space and non-manuals for comparison and contrast.
- Describe the difference in production between a "yes/no" and a "wh" question, and demonstrate ability to ask and respond to each question form.
- Provide appropriate back-channel feedback and ask clarification questions.
- Describe where they live and how (route by which) they come to school.
- Provide basic information about immediate family, including age-order ranking:
- Appropriately establish tense and talk about common activities.
- Utilize negation via non-manual (head movement), at least three different lexical signs,

and a combination of both manual and non-manual elements.

- Communicate future goals in relation to work, family, and self; and
- Describe three elements of what it means to identify yourself as being Deaf.

Major Topics to be Included

- Appropriate methods of introducing self to others
- Exchanging personal information
- Ability to discuss physical surroundings
- Telling where you live and how you travel
- Talking about your family
- Telling about activities
- Negotiating an environment using ASL
- An introduction to Deaf culture and community

Procedures:

*(Only the use of ASL is used in the classroom environment. I ALWAYS insist on maintaining a signing environment in the classroom for two reasons: First, culturally speaking, it is considered rude and insulting to talk in front of a Deaf person and not make the information passing between you and the other person accessible. Since a good number of you have the goal of getting to know Deaf people in the community and potentially working in the field it is important to know cultural values. It is imperative that you develop the habit of signing when Deaf people are present. Secondly, this is an immersion class, which means only the target language is used. Using only ASL helps you to develop both your comprehension skills and your expressive skills quickly and effectively. Talking disrupts this process for you and others and delays language development and acquisition.

*It is EXPECTED that students will check their email account PRIOR to each class meeting. Students should also be aware that I will communicate with the class via email and Canvas any changes or updates to the course syllabus or other essential information to the course.

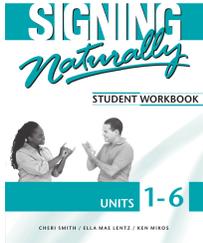
Virtual Meeting Expectations: *“Joining the weekly ZOOM meeting is functionally equivalent to walking into a classroom. Please behave professionally, treat others with courtesy and respect, use language thoughtfully, wear appropriate clothing, and avoid inappropriate surroundings. Ideally you will join class from a suitable, quiet location, with a device that permits full participation in the class activities.” (Harvard).*

Learning Resources

- Textbook: **Signing Naturally, Units 1 - 6, with the Student DVD**

Author: Cheri Smith, Ella Mae Lentz, and Ken Mikos

ISBN#: 978-1-58121-210-5



Online	Free- American Sign Language University	
Author	Bill Vicars	
*Website	http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/	

*** If you choose to write in this Signing Naturally workbook, you will NOT be able to sell it back to the bookstore at the end of the semester.**

Technology Resources

- High-speed internet is needed to be able to use the online curriculum, access the online dictionaries among other things. If you do not have high speed internet at home, you need to make sure that you can access it on a **REGULAR** basis from LFCC or elsewhere. Not having access to high-speed internet will not be an accepted excuse for incomplete work or poor test grades. You also must have the ability to video yourself which will be submitted for a grade.
- Your technological device must have speakers, webcam, and a microphone for the purposes of Zoom meetings.

Grading and Evaluation

Type of Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Assignments/Class Participation	10%
Signed Presentations	35%
Quizzes/Lifeprint quizzes	20%
Tests	25%
Final Exam	10%
	Total: 100%

FINAL EXAM – The final exam is cumulative. It will cover anything covered during the semester. If you have a 93% average before the final exam, you are exempt from the written portion of the final which will be administered exam week. (Only if all assignments have been turned in).

Students will be assigned the following final letter grades, based on calculations coming from the course assessment section above.

Grading Scale

Grade	Interval
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	Below 59

Submitting Assignments

- Late-work:** To treat everyone fairly, assignments must be completed on or by the announced or published due dates. If you know in advance that you will not be in class for an assignment, you may arrange to take that assignment early to avoid a "0" or a point deduction. If there are extenuating circumstances, like an illness, accident, etc. I am willing to work with you but, late is unacceptable and will carry some form of grade penalty.

All assignments will have 10 percent deducted after the announced due date and will not be accepted after 5 days, unless prior approval has been secured, and a zero will be recorded.

- Make-up work:** Tests and Quizzes may NOT be made up unless prior arrangement is made, or extenuating circumstances as stated above. The final may be made up *only* if missed for extenuating circumstances. Make-ups for these assignments, *if granted*, will not be the same exam administered to the rest of the class.
- Re-grade:** Assignments will not be re-graded but potential errors in grading may be brought to the attention of the professor. However, a student may one-time request for a Signed Story with a grade less than 90% to be re-submitted and re-graded. This request needs to be made in writing within one week of receiving the original graded assignment and resubmitted no later than two week of original assignment due date.

A Note on Zeroes: Zeroes will destroy your grade quicker than anything else. And in college, zeroes are zeroes. They are not “really” 50’s. A zero in college is NO credit AT ALL. There will also be no last-minute reprieve where all late work can be turned in for some credit. There will be no “extra credit” to offset a zero. Bad grades on assignments, even "F's" are significantly less damaging to your grade than a zero. For example, you have 3 grades, 90, 90, & a 50 (2 A's and an F) for an average of: 76/C. Now, make that 90, 90, and a 0 and the average plummets to: 60/D-, almost an F. Bottom line:

- Do EVERY assignment (This is YOUR responsibility, not the professor’s)
- Keep up with everything (This is YOUR responsibility, not the professor’s)
- Communicate with the professor and ask about making up anything you may have missed so you can avoid that grade-destroying zero. (This is YOUR responsibility)