

**Syllabus
Spring 2013**

American Sign Language (ASL) , Course 102
PAC C-24
M W F @ 12 - 12:50 PM
Instructor: Irene Schock; Office A-33
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Course Description:

This course is continuation of American Sign Language, the 3rd mostly widely used language in the U.S. This course is designed for students who have no previous knowledge of ASL. This course will provide you with survival level conversational skills in signing.

Course Objective:

In this course, the students will demonstrate ability to understand classroom interaction with the instructor through basic ASL and gestural communication. The students will gain an introductory awareness of the Deaf experience and cultural heritage in the U. S.

Required Text/Materials:

- MY ASL BOOK: A Communicative Approach for Learning a Visual Language by Donald Bangs; Kendall Hunt Publications, Inc. 2011

- MyASLTube.com - an interactive web-based ASL network

- ASLPro.com and Signingsavvy.com

Course Requirements and Grading:

-Communication policy: The Total Immersion Approach

This means that, the minute you enter our classroom, you must "TURN-OFF YOUR VOICE BOX" and communicate with your teacher and classmates through signs, fingerspelling, gestures, mime, body language and any other non-speech approach. It sounds challenging but it becomes easier as you gain more experience.

-Attendance is crucial to your success in acquiring ASL. Missed lessons cannot be made up or can you excel if you're absent.

*Up to 3 absences-no penalty. For each absence over 3, one point will be deducted from your final grade. Any student who misses more than 10 class meetings will receive an F for the course.

*Make up tests will be given on the final week of classes and will be given only for excused and emergency absences.

-Timeliness is just as importance as attendance. Excessive/habitual tardiness will count as absences (2 tardies = 1 absence, they add up) and affect your final grade. Late arrivals disrupt the flow of the lesson in progress. When you arrive late you must follow Deaf culture norms:

*get the teacher's attention

*apologize for being late

*explain why you are late

-Grading:

Class participation:	25	90-100	A
Tests	25	80-89	B
Expressive Test	20	70-79	C
Assignments	10	60-69	D
Final exam	<u>20</u>	below 60	F
Total		100%	

Note: The final exam is obligatory. A MAKE UP WILL NOT BE GIVEN.

Class Guidelines:

- * RELAX
- * Focus on getting the gist of conversation, not a sign you have missed.
- * If you don't understand, let me know, i.e. stop me! (I'll show the appropriate way to do this).
- * If you have any questions email me.
- * **NO TALKING, WHISPERING:** Using your voice deprives your classmates of valuable communication experiences that strengthen their comprehension skills. Talking is not allowed in the classroom before, during or after class.
 - * It's okay to make mistakes. They're all part of the learning process. Don't put unnecessary pressure on yourself by expecting your production of ASL to be perfect.
 - * It's important that you DO NOT criticize your classmates. If you don't understand a fellow student, ask for clarification or help by using signs, gestures and writing.
- * **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!**
 - * You're responsible for any work or information that you miss due to tardiness or absences.
 - * If you have a cell phone, be sure it's set to vibrate and the ringer is off before entering the classroom.
 - * Bring your workbook to each class.

Note:

1. The majority of this class will focus on understanding ASL. Since repetition is an integral part of learning, review will be built into each lesson. Before each test, time will be scheduled for review.
2. You often may be expected to learn more than one sign/variant for a concept in ASL. These variants may be due to: a) generational usage, b) register (formal vs casual), c) ease of production or d) regional usage.
3. If you see a sign different from that presented in class, feel free to ask about it. It may be another variant or learned incorrectly and class is the ideal place to learn.
4. Do not assume that each ASL sign has an English equivalent. There may be times when you will "feel" for what the sign means in the context but cannot put a "word" to it. It doesn't mean that you don't understand; it may only mean that there may not be an efficient way to express it in English.

IMPORTANT - ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY; Students who use their voices in class will be asked to leave. If they continue to use their voices in subsequent classes, they will be dropped from the class.