

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614
(309) 692-4092 (800) 251-4299
Fall 2015

Course: ASL100 Introduction to American Sign Language
Credit: 4 Quarter Hours **Method of Delivery:** Classroom

Course Description: This course is designed to give a basic knowledge of the language of sign and finger spelling for communication with the Deaf. Basics of the following subject matter will be covered: laws affecting individuals who are deaf, the sign language continuum, history of sign language, education of deaf students, Deaf Community and Deaf culture, audiological information, and careers utilizing sign language. The course is directed to persons working with the Deaf, particularly CART providers, employers or employees, or those who have family members who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Prerequisite: N/A

Text: *Learning American Sign Language: Levels I & II—Beginning & Intermediate (2nd Edition)*
Author(s): Tom Humphries and Carol Padden
Publisher: Pearson Education, 2004, ISBN 978-0205275533

Materials needed for this course:

Additional Supplies: Internet access for class assignments and individual practice/study

Topics: Finger spelling and numbers, ASL vocabulary for daily situations, basic ASL sentence structure and grammar, idioms, Deaf culture and history

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Fingerspell and count to 100 expressively
2. Fingerspell and count to 100 receptively
3. Name the 5 parameters in ASL
4. Identify the basic sentence structure of ASL
5. Understand the role of ASL in Deaf culture, including education of Deaf individuals and development of sign language
6. Expressively conduct a basic dialogue in ASL representing a day-to-day social situation
7. Receptively comprehend a basic dialogue in ASL representing a day-to-day social situation
8. Understand the laws relating to communication with Deaf individuals as well as the role and importance of a licensed sign language interpreter

Midstate Grading scale:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

Midstate Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web

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pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success:

The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact Student Success in Room 217 (in person); (309) 692-4092, extension 2170 (phone); studentsuccess@midstate.edu (email).

Instructor: Tammy J. Arvin
Midstate email: tjarvin@midstate.edu

Room/phone: 309-692-4092
Office Hours: by appointment

Policies and Procedures:

As with any other foreign language, American Sign Language (ASL) is taught in a “full immersion” setting, meaning that the class will be conducted entirely in ASL. As a result, this classroom will adhere to a “no voice” policy. From the time you arrive in class, all conversation with both classmates and the instructor should be in ASL until you leave class. If you don’t know a sign, fingerspell the word or write a note. The reason for implementing a “no voicing” policy is twofold. First, it enhances the student’s learning experience by forcing the student to “think” in ASL, thus solidifying the student’s grasp of ASL grammar and facilitating acquisition of new vocabulary. Second, a “no voicing” policy shows respect for Deaf culture, which is inseparable from the language.

The only exception to this policy will be during the “Language and Culture” class discussions. We will devote the last 30-40 minutes of each class session to a lively class discussion of topics relating to the history and development of ASL and Deaf culture. To facilitate a successful discussion and give everyone a “brain break,” we will conduct these discussions in English! For information about preparing for this portion of the class, see below under “Participation Requirements.” Specific “Language and Culture” topics are listed in the Week-by-Week Schedule.

As a courtesy to your peers in class and the instructor, please keep cell phones and all other mobile devices OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT!!

Participation Requirements:

Since ASL is a skill-acquisition oriented course, your attendance is absolutely imperative for success. Most of the course content will be delivered via in-class instructor presentations and class activities. Though review and practice outside of class is strongly encouraged, class activities cannot be made up outside class.

Throughout the semester, students will be asked to watch a video, research a topic, or read an article online and write a short, one page essay in preparation for class discussion of Deaf language and culture. Essays should be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins at top and bottom in 10 or 12 point font. You will receive a participation grade of 15 points for completing and turning in these written assignments in the correct format.

In addition, students will receive a weekly attendance and participation grade of 30 points per class period. Five points will be deducted if the student is more than 15 minutes late for class. Also, students will receive one warning per class for violation of the “no voicing” policy after which 5 points will be deducted for each additional violation.

Learning ASL can and should be FUN! Come to class each week with your enthusiasm and an open mind!

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Examination Information:

A weekly review quiz will be administered at the beginning of each class period. Each weekly quiz will be worth 10 points and will be evaluate your familiarity with the textbook material covered during the prior class session.

The midterm and final exam will both be cumulative and will contain both expressive and receptive components as well as short answer questions pertaining to Deaf Culture and ASL from Language and Culture discussions.

Methods of evaluating student performance:

Language and Culture essays
Student Attendance/Participation
Weekly Review Quiz
Midterm Exam
Final Exam

Instructor's Grading Scale:

Language and Culture Essays:	15	150
Student Attendance Participation	30	360
Weekly Review Quiz	10	90
Midterm Exam	100	100
Final Exam	100	100
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS		800

Week-by-Week:

Week #1: 08/22/2015	Course Introduction Five Parameters Text Unit #1: Introductions and Personal Information Fingerspelled Alphabet Numbers 1-10 Language and Culture: Name Signs, Deaf Culture Facts
Week #2: 08/29/2015	Text Unit #2: Learning ASL Numbers 11-20 Language and Culture: Deaf schools and education
Week #3: 09/05/2015	Text Unit #3: Politeness Numbers 21-30 and above Language and Culture: Social situations and ABC Stories (intro)
Week #4: 09/12/2015	Text Unit #4: Descriptions Syntax: Time-Topic-Comment Language and Culture: Famous Deaf People
Week #5: 09/19/2015	Text Unit #5: Requests Language and Culture: Assistive Technology, VRI, VRS

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- Week #6: 09/26/2015** **Midterm Exam**
Text Unit #6: Expressing Yourself
Review Syntax: Time-Topic Comment
Language and Culture: Laws affecting Deaf individuals
- Week #7: 10/03/2015** **Finish Unit #6 (if needed)**
Text Unit #7: More Descriptions
Language and Culture: Sign Language Interpreters
- Week #8: 10/10/2015** **Unit #8: Family and Friends**
Language and Culture: ABC story performances
- Week #9: 10/17/2015** **Unit #9: More Descriptions**
Language and Culture: Deaf Storytelling and Songs
Finish ABC stories (if necessary)
- Week #10: 10/24/2015** **Unit #10: At Home and Daily Living**
Language and Culture: Other manually coded languages
- Week #11: 10/31/2015** **Unit #11: Food and Food Shopping**
Language and Culture: Lexicalized Signs
- Week #12: 11/07/2015** **Final Exam**