

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## American Sign Language (ASL) For Beginners

Fall Semester, 2007

Course Title:	SPPA 480; ASL for Beginners	Class Time:	Mon, 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Instructor:	Scot A Pott, MPH	Classroom #:	Bell Hall #161
Office #:	Bell Hall 157C	Office Hours:	Mon, 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Office Phone:	269-471-3468 (leave messages only)	Email:	ScotAPott@aol.com

### TEXT:

Learning American Sign Language, Humphries & Padden. 2nd edition, 2004. (including DVD)

### OBJECTIVES:

To enable students to recognize, describe, and produce, under appropriate conditions, the basic grammatical features and vocabulary of ASL.

To enable students to recognize and describe the essential features of Deaf culture, communication strategies, education and related topics.

### COURSE STRUCTURE:

12 units of vocabulary/grammar and a cumulative review unit will be presented, contained in the first half of the textbook. Activities will include demonstration, drills, exercises, games, lecture, and discussion.

### GRADING POLICY, CRITERIA & ASSIGNMENTS:

	<u>Possible Points</u>
<u>Attendance:</u>	
Per Class	10
<u>Tests:</u>	
Quizzes (Receptive or Written only)	100
Midterm Exam	200
Final Exam	200
<u>Papers:</u>	
2 Social Interaction (Reactions)	100
Research Paper	100
<u>Total Possible Points:</u>	830

The final grade will be determined by the number of points accumulated, according to the following scale:

A = 100.00% - 94.00%	A- 93.99% - 90.00%	
B+ = 89.99% - 87.50%	B = 87.49% - 83.50%	B- = 83.49% - 80.00%
C+ = 79.99% - 77.50%	C = 77.49% - 73.50%	C- = 73.49% - 70.00%
D = 69.99% - 65.00%		
F = 64.99% - 0.00%		

**PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE:**

Since this is a class primarily based on expressive and receptive performance, attendance is required. Missing two classes does not effect one's grade; two tardies count as one miss. After two missed classes, final course grade may be lowered one half a grade point for each absence. Leaving a class early may result in no credit for that class' activities; be sure to check in with the Instructor. In-class work cannot be made up. All students are responsible for obtaining missed information and materials. If you have missed the equivalent of 4 class meetings, consider yourself having failed the course; withdrawal is suggested.

Please see me immediately if you anticipate any problems with attendance. In the case of extended illness, family emergency, etc., it may be necessary to consider taking an incomplete or dropping the course until the attendance can be assured.

**TESTS:**Quizzes:

There are (approximately) weekly short quizzes focusing on material covered the previous classes.

Exams: (75 points on Receptive, 75 points on Videotaped Expressive & 50 points on Written)

The Receptive is generally formatted as follows: Part I – Sentences (10); Part II – Questions (5); Part III – Questions about 1 ASL Mini-Story & the transcription of a short story.

The Expressive information is made available no more than one class prior to starting date for Expressive Skills. There are always creative (make up your own) – for which you must hand in a script -- and “scripted” portions options for the Expressive.

Written portion consists all grammar rules, note taking from the class and culture notes.

**PAPERS:**

There are three types of papers for this class: (1) six are about Topics, (2) two are Social Interaction Report and (3) two are Library /Deaf Author Reaction Papers.

Social Interaction Reaction Papers:

These two papers are based on interaction with one or more Deaf/HOH individuals, required length 350-500 words, about half summary of event and half “reaction”. As we hear about events, they are placed on the desk in the classroom or/and they are sent to your mailbox (email). If none of the listed events work for you, see your instructor as soon as possible. Please note: social interaction date must fall within this semester, and the flyer, i.e., date and place of event and the name of at least one Deaf person present must be attached. Submit 2 reaction papers by deadlines listed in class schedule.

Research Paper:

Required length at least three pages, not including cover sheet, pictures and work cited. Regarding topics for your research, it must relate to Deaf World, Deaf Culture, ASL and famous Deaf people. Please see Mr. Pott before beginning your work on your research. Please note: Also, reading must be completed within this semester, name and author of work and length of work must be noted in the paper. See additional handout “Library Reaction /Deaf Author Reaction Paper” for some ideas.

**PAPER FORMAT:**

All reports and papers must be double-spaced typed, font size: 12, Font style: Arial or Times New Roman and Margins: 1 inch. # of pages vary, depending on paper requirements. Note: Cover page and pictures are not included for the number of pages. Your name, instructor's name, date, course title and paper's title should be typed on the cover sheet only.

**MISSED/LATE WORK:**

Most work cannot be made up. It is unlikely any can. Late paper work is not accepted.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

October 8 (Fall Break)  
Midterm Exam: October 22  
Final Exam: December 10

**WEATHER INFORMATION:**

In case of inclement weather, please call the school closing hotline at (269) 471-7660.

**EMAIL REQUIRED:**

You are encouraged to check your Andrews University's email for messages, at least twice weekly.

**VOICE POLICY:**

Using 'hearing' voice is not allowed in the classroom. If you voice in class, you will be warned and then the following consequences will occur:

First warning: You will lose 2 points.

Second warning: You will lose additional 3 points.

Third warning: You will be asked to leave the class for the night.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Andrews University, as a Seventh-Day Adventist Christian institution expects students to demonstrate the ability to think clearly and exhibit personal moral integrity in every sphere of life. Honesty in all academic matters is vital component of personal integrity. Breaches in academic integrity principles are taken seriously by your instructor and the University. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. It can be defined as (but not limited to): Falsifying official documents; Plagiarizing; which includes copying others' published work and/or failing to give credit properly to other authors and creators; Misusing copyrighted material and/or violating licensing agreements; Using media from any source or medium, including the Internet with intent to mislead, deceive, or defraud; Presenting another's work as one's own; Using material during a quiz or exam other than those specifically allowed by the teacher; Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or exam materials; Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz; Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty, Please see the Student Handbook for information regarding University enforcement penalties for academic dishonesty. (Andrews University 2007-2008 Bulletin). In addition, a student will receive a reduced grade, and may receive a failing grade in the course.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA):**

If you qualify for accommodations under this act, please see me as soon as possible for referral and assistance in arranging such accommodations.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Week #1 (September 10)

Introduction, Fingerspelling & Unit 1

Week #2 (September 17)

Social Interaction Discussion & Unit 2 & 3

Week #3 (September 24)

Unit 3 & 4

Week #4 (October 1)

Unit 5

Week #5 (October 15)

Unit 6; Review for Midterm Exam

Week #6 (October 22)

Midterm Exam (Receptive, Expressive & Written)

Week #7 (October 29)

Results & Unit 7

Week #8 (November 5)

Unit 8 & 9; Social Interaction #1 due;

Week #9 (November 12)

Unit 9 & 10

Week #10 (November 19)

Unit 10 & 11; Research Paper due;

Week #11 (November 26)

Unit 12

Week #12 (December 3)

Review; Social Interaction #2 due;

Week #13 (December 10)

Final Exam (Receptive, Expressive & Written)

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO INSTRUCTOR**

I have received a copy of the syllabus. I have read it and have had the opportunity to discuss it and ask questions. I understand what is expected of me based on the information contained in this course syllabus. I accept the course procedures and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT

*Who was/were your ASL teacher(s)? When and where did you take ASL class (es), even if you did not take it last semester?*

*What is your major? Is it required for you to take an ASL class?*

*Please take a moment to tell me about yourself and why you are taking ASL class.*