

SPPA480-001 COURSE SYLLABUS

American Sign Language (ASL) For Beginners

Fall Semester, 2012

Instructor: Norene Dodge **Class Time:** Monday,
3:30PM-4:45PM
Office: Bell Hall Wednesday, 3:30PM-4:45PM
Office Phone: 269-471-6104 **Classroom:** Buller Hall
Room 250
Cell Phone: 269-519-9442 **Email:** norene@andrews.edu
Office Hours: Monday 2:10-3:10 PM

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Signing Naturally Student Workbook, Units 1-6, Smith, Lentz, Mikos.
Copyright 2008. Including 2 DVDs. ISBN: 978-1-58121-210-5. Please
do not substitute.

OPTIONAL REFERENCE

Random House Webster's Compact American Sign Language
Dictionary [Paperback] by Elaine Costello Ph.D. (Author). ISBN: 978-0-
375-72277-6. Any older edition may also be substituted.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

Course Description

Everyday communication is the centerpiece of every lesson. Topics
revolve around sharing information about our environment and us.
Grammar is introduced in context, with an emphasis on developing
question and answering skills. You learn conversational strategies to
help you maintain a conversation. Interaction activities allow you to
rehearse what you've learned.

Approach

The curriculum parallels what we know about language development
and second language learning. We focus on introducing language in
context and reinforcing what is learned by engaging you into various
interactive activities. A conversational curriculum requires you to be an
active learner. You need to come prepared to sign with me and other
classmates. Our classes are conducted in American Sign Language
(ASL) from the very first day. You are immersed in the language for
three hours a week to maximize your language learning. The teacher
will use gestures, signs, drawings and act out situations to get the point

across and your job is to keep trying. This may sound daunting at first, but trust me, it works!

No Talking Policy

We insist on maintaining a signing environment at all times in the classroom for two reasons; One, 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 your goal is to get to know Deaf people in the community, 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 and delays your language development.

If a fellow student asks you for help, feel free to help by using signs you have learned or by writing back and forth. In this way, I can see what is being said and can join in to help, if needed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class Attendance: Participation in class activities is crucial to your success in this class. The class forms a small community and your effort or lack of it impacts the success of the group. Please make every effort to come to every class with homework done and ready to learn and participate. If you come late or leave early this will be considered a missed class. Missing two classes does not affect one's grade; two tardies count as one missed class. After two missed classes, final course grade may be lowered one half grade point for each absence. In-class work cannot be made up. If you miss 4 classes you may be dropped from the class in accordance with college attendance policies. If you know you will be absent from class make arrangements for a classmate to take notes and collect handouts for you. I do not always bring extra copies with me to the next class.

Please see the instructor 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 attendance can be assured.

2. Quizzes: Some weeks a short quiz will be given covering previous classes, or the assigned reading and video (DVD) material. The quiz will be given in the first few minutes of class and may or may not be announced prior to class.

3. Homework: You will study the student text materials including reading and viewing the DVD that may take anywhere from 1 to 2 hours. It is important that you review the previous class material and preview the next class material for each class because each class builds on the previous material. This class includes more class time and less research outside of class than a traditional class in order to practice the language in a natural conversational setting.

4. Examination: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. Each will be worth 200 points. Each exam will have three parts, production, reception and written. You will receive more information on each of these later in the semester.

- *Production Component:* You will video yourself signing assigned material. You will then fill in an evaluation of yourself and possibly another class member. The point of the evaluation is to see if you recognize appropriate and inappropriate details. Depending on the material it may also test your ability to respond appropriately in a conversational environment.
- *Receptive Component:* The exam tests your comprehension of what is signed to you.
- *Written Component:* You will answer questions or write essay answers about class material.

5. PAPERS: There are two Social Interaction Reaction Papers based on actual interaction with one or more Deaf/HOH individuals. Papers must be typed or in printable electronic style with a title page including your name, course number and Description, date and instructor. A summary of the event followed by a reaction should total about 350-500 words. These may be selected from the list below or approved by the instructor. Additional events will be announced by the instructor either at class or by Email. You are responsible for selecting from the available events. NOTE: events must happen within this semester, and the brochure announcing the event, and/or name of at least one Deaf person present must be attached. Submit these papers by the deadlines listed in the class schedule.

Suggestions For Social Interaction

At any deaf event you must respect the needs of the Deaf.

1. Attend a church with interpreted services. The following churches sometimes have services. Please inform the instructor what days you plan to attend and updated information will be provided. Email the instructor if you wish to be notified of last minute schedule changes for these events.
 - a. St Joe Church of Christ, 3550 Niles Ave, St Joseph, MI
 - b. DMMC <http://www.dmmc.net/>
 - c. Village SDA Church (Email Marvin Budd in advance: marvbudd@gmail.com)
 - d. Niles Westside SDA Church (Email Marvin Budd in advance: marvbudd@gmail.com)
2. Attend a deaf event (fellowship lunch, deaf club) <http://www.uhs-in.org/resources.html>
3. Attend an ASL learning event at
 - a. Bethel College
<http://www.bethelcollege.edu/news/events.html>
 - b. Goshen College <http://www.goshen.edu/clubs/asl/>
4. Check the following website:
<http://www.michdhh.org/calendar/index.html>

5. Deaf Nation: <http://deafnation.com/> Nov 3 - Chicago
6. Outside of Class Activities: The instructor may arrange one or more cultural experiences where exposure to Deaf Culture may be experienced. A movie or an event where Deaf from the local community come to chat and interact may be arranged. These will be announced by Email, and/or in class. Some may be unexpected.

Please note that real-world interaction with the Deaf is not always consistent with the values of Andrews University. You are expected to make appropriate choices for yourself while respecting the needs of the Deaf.

6. MISSED/LATE WORK: Most work cannot be made up. Late paper work is not accepted.

7. Miscellaneous: All tests and written assignments will remain in the possession of the instructor. They will be distributed during the class period and collected before you leave the class to be recorded.

8. WEATHER INFORMATION: In case of inclement weather, please call the school hotline at (269) 471-7660. See http://www.andrews.edu/faculty/blizzard_procedures.html.

9. VOICE POLICY: Using your voice in class is not allowed. If you use your voice without prior permission the following will occur:

First warning: You will lose 2 points.

Second warning: You will lose an additional 3 points.

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

10. GRADING: Grades will be calculated on a percentage basis as follows:

94.0 - 100%	A	77.5-79.99	C+
90.0 - 93.99	A-	73.5-77.49	C
87.5 - 89.9	B+	70.0-73.49	C-
83.5 - 87.49	B	65.0-69.99	D
80.0 - 83.49	B-	Below 65%	F

Possible Points

Attendance: 10 points per class 260

Tests:

Quizzes (Receptive or Written only) 100

Midterm Exam 200

Final Exam 200

Papers:

2 Social Interaction Reaction Papers 120 points each 240

Total Possible Points: 1,000

11. Academic dishonesty including plagiarism, copying other students work, stealing quizzes or accepting stolen quizzes or exams is a serious offense. Possible consequences are a warning, reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the class, expulsion from the university, and/or degree cancellation. You are responsible for accepting and obeying the Andrews University Code of Academic Integrity expressed online at http://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html, and in the Student Handbook.

12. Andrews University is committed to the education of all students on campus. If you qualify for accommodations under the American Disabilities Act, please see the instructor as soon as possible for referral and assistance in arranging such accommodations.

13. CELL PHONES and EATING in class: In an effort to make the most valuable use of your time and mine, I am requesting that cell phones be turned off during class and that eating during class be discontinued. Cell phones ringing and/or vibrating are a distraction. If there is an emergency and you need to be reached by cell phone during class, you must discuss the emergency with me prior to class. Please plan to eat prior to class so that you can easily participate in class discussion and take notes.

14. E-MAIL: You are responsible for checking your Andrews e-mail account for messages from class. Please check your e-mail on a regular basis for important messages. Some course materials and notifications will be given by Email. If you want to attend any of the interpreted SDA services locally, email your intent to the instructor who will inform you of last minute scheduling changes.

15. Changes: Changes to the course outline, assignments, quizzes and exams may be changed as deemed necessary by the professor to foster optimal instruction. This can include additional assignments, review quizzes or assignments and extra credit.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class 1, August 27 – Introduction

Class 2, August 29 – **Homework Due – Reaction paper**, Unit 1.1, 1.2

Class 3, Sept 5 – Unit 1.3, 1.4

Class 4, Sept 10 – Unit 1.5, 1.6

Class 5, Sept 12 – Unit 1.7, 1.8

Class 6, Sept 17 – Unit 1.9, 1.10

Class 7, Sept 19 – Unit 1.11, 1.12

Class 8, Sept 24 – Unit 1.13, 1.14

Class 9, Sept 26 - Unit Review

Class 10, Oct 1 – Comprehension Exam Unit 1
 Class 11, Oct 3 – Unit 2.1, 2.2
 Class 12, Oct 10 – **Social Interaction Paper #1 Due**, Unit 2.3, 2.4
 Class 13, Oct 15 – Unit 2.5, 2.6
 Class 14, Oct 17 – Unit 2.7, 2.8
 Class 15, Oct 22 – Unit 2.9, 2.10
 Class 16, Oct 24 – Unit 2.11, 2.12
 Class 17, Oct 29 – Unit Review
 Class 18, Oct 31 – Unit Exercise
 Class 19, Nov 5 – Unit 3.1, 3.2
 Class 20, Nov 7 – Unit 3.3, 3.4
 Class 21, Nov 12 – Unit 3.5, 3.6
 Class 22, Nov 14 – Unit 3.7, 3.8
 Class 23, Nov 26 – Unit 3.9, 3.10
 Class 24, Nov 28 – Unit 3.11, 3.12
 Class 25, Dec 3 – **Social Interaction Paper #2 Due, Review**
 Class 26, Dec 5 – **Final Exam Part 1, Production Exam**
 Dec 10 – **Final Comprehension Exam Part 2**
 PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO INSTRUCTOR

I have read the SPPA480-001 course syllabus and had the opportunity to discuss it and ask questions. I understand what is expected of me based on the information contained in the syllabus and accept the procedures and conditions.

Student
 Signature _____ Date _____

Print _____ Audit or
 Credit _____

Please describe past classes or instruction in ASL. Include teacher, date and level.

Please describe your interests in taking ASL and tell me about yourself.

