

COURSE SYLLABUS

- I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: ECTA 170 – American Sign Language I
- II. ACADEMIC CREDIT: Semester Hours: 3.0
- III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines deaf culture and presents to the student basic American Sign Language (ASL). Students will be presented with the following basics: sign vocabulary, finger spelling, numbers and expressive and receptive signing. The course will present topics that will explore the history of ASL. The student will also become familiar with aspects of deaf culture. This basic course will give students a fine foundation for signed communication.
- IV. PLACE OF COURSE IN THE EXISTING CURRICULUM:

Prerequisites: none
- V. COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
 - A. Goal One: Communication in Languages Other than English
 1. Students will engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions utilizing ASL.
 2. Students will understand and interpret signed ASL on a variety of topics.
 3. Students will convey information, concepts and ideas to listeners for a variety of purposes in ASL.
 - B. Goal Two: Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures
 1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the perspectives and practices of Deaf Culture and use this knowledge to interact effectively in cultural contexts.
 2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship and products/contributions of Deaf Culture.
 - C. Goal Three: Connect With Other Disciplines and Acquire Information
 1. Students reinforce and further knowledge of other disciplines through ASL.
 2. Students acquire information and perspectives through use of authentic materials in ASL and from Deaf Culture.
 - D. Goal Four: Develop insight into the Nature of ASL and Deaf Culture
 1. Students recognize that different languages use different patterns to communicate and can apply this knowledge when using English and ASL.
 2. Students recognize that different languages use different patterns of interaction and can apply this knowledge to their own culture.
- VI. CONTENT:

This curriculum focuses on interpersonal communication to achieve communication competence called the “functional-notional” approach to second language learning. It emphasizes introducing language in context and reinforcement through various activities that are interactive. You will be an active learner in this class and must be prepared to sign

with the instructor and with your peers during and out of class time. Blackboard will be used in this course to assist in building vocabulary and for testing of receptive skills.

VII. METHODOLOGY:

1. Reading.
2. Worksheets.
3. Research.
4. Tests (Expressive and Receptive).
5. Projects (individual and group).
6. Deaf community events/interpreted events.
7. Reflection papers.
8. On-line activities.
9. Games.

VIII. STUDENT ROLES:

- A. Attend all class meetings.
- B. Complete all reading assignments.
- C. Complete all written and “signed” assignments.
- D. Participate in class and small group activities.
- E. Participate on Blackboard to acquire vocabulary.

IX. EVALUATION:

- A. In order to evaluate comprehension of the materials, there will be weekly quizzes covering the class material, readings, and vocabulary up to the date of the quiz. Two exams are scheduled to monitor progress.
- B. Students will be expected to participate in classroom discussion based on their reading and thinking.
- C. Each student will submit a college-level paper reviewing what the student learned about deaf culture from a book they will choose from a given list.
- D. Each student will submit a college-level paper reviewing what the student learned from a movie about deaf culture.

X. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Bauman, H. (ed). (2008). *Open Your Eyes: Deaf Studies Talking*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Costello, E. (2009) *Religious Signing: A Comprehensive Guide for All Faiths*. Bantam.
- Humphries, T., Padden, C., & O'Rourke (1994). *Basic Course in American Sign Language*. Silver Spring, MD.: T.J. Publishers, Edition: (spiral).
- Lane, H. (1988) *When the Mind Hears: A History of the Deaf*. Harmondsworth:Penguin.
- Padden, C., & Humphries, T. (1988). *Deaf in America: Voices From a Culture*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Padden, C., & Humphries, T. (2006) *Inside Deaf Culture*. Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press.
- Moore, M., & Levitan, L. (2003). *For Hearing People Only*. 3rd Edition. Deaf Life Press: San Deigo, CA.: Rochester, N.Y., Deaf Life Press, 1992. (For hearing people only:

answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about the Deaf community, its culture, and the "Deaf reality")

Neisser, A. (1990) *The Other Side of Silence: Sign Language and the Deaf Community in America*. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press.

Spradley, T., & Spradley, J. *Deaf Like Me*. New York: Random House.

Sternberg, M. (1998) *American Sign Language Dictionary*, 3rd Edition, HarperCollins.

Vickrey Van Cleve, J., & Crouch, B. (1989) *A Place of Their Own: Creating the Deaf Community in America*. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press.

XI. Reviewed: 6/29/12