



American Sign Language I Class Syllabus

Instructor: Ken Noble

Email contact: knoble@corebutte.org

Course description:

An introduction to American Sign Language. Topics include: basic vocabulary, grammar, Deaf history, fingerspelling, numbers, terminology, and Deaf culture. Special note: This course will require approximately 3-4 hours outside of class per week (homework). A research paper consisting of at least 500 words will also be required. Additionally, a video project will be created in which the student will demonstrate ASL skills learned in class. The research paper and video project combined will represent approximately 25% of the course grade.

This class, for most students, opens an entirely new way of learning and communicating that is fun and exciting. It also shows the unique history and culture of a society that many do not realize exists in our midst. Common misconceptions and issues regarding the Deaf will also be addressed. The goal of the class is to share an entirely different language and allows them to experience and participate in the Deaf community.

Student not only need to memorize vocabulary, but also learn how to ask questions, make sentences, carry on a conversation, and provide information. Students may be asked to view certain movies, music videos, and other media as part of the class participation.

Materials:

The course makes extensive use of online lessons 1-20 at the website: <http://www.lifeprint.com>. Additionally, a relatively short book, available at the library, will be assigned, along with chapter review questions. No other books are presently required. If desired, a student can purchase a CD containing all the online lessons and practice quizzes, which is especially helpful for "off-line" studying. An available notebook is required for recording class notes and assignments.

Class Process:

The ASL class will go through the lessons sequentially starting with lesson one. Work in class will consist of a variety of exercises, including, but not limited to the lessons found on the www.lifeprint.com website. To see these lessons, go to the website www.lifeprint.com and find the "Lessons" link and click on it. Then open up one of the lessons. Read through the lessons and click on the links to the vocabulary. For each vocabulary link you should read the whole page and do the sign until you have it memorized. Then sign all of the practice sentences and read any of the other material in the lesson.

Active participation by the student is important. Students will be expected to be interactive with the teacher and with other students as part of the development of language skills. This aspect of class, along with the occasional homework assignments will account for 20% of the class grades.

Field Trip(s):

Class members will be encouraged (but not required) to participate in a short field trip out into the community where they will be challenged to rely only on their sign language skills in communicating with one another and the community at large. For example, class may be invited to attend a pizza parlor, where students will order their meals, visit with each other, and interact with others as if they themselves are deaf. The purpose is to expose students to a better understanding of the deaf experience.

Classroom Time/Restrictions:

The classes are on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:45. Snacks and drinks (water) may be offered to students to enjoy during part of this time. Please be advised that some may have allergies to certain food products. Snacks containing peanuts or derivatives of peanuts should be avoided. Students will be expected to help

maintain a clean and healthy environment. They may be asked to help clean up and to arrange/rearrange classroom equipment.

Please do not use cell phones, iPods, etc. during class. This requirement will be strictly enforced. Certain electronic devices such as laptops and tablet computers are allowed only if they are used specifically for classroom learning.

Grading:

In general, questions regarding test scores, grade challenges, etc. are welcome. Your discretion in these matters is expected, however. No part of your grade will be based on anything other than your coursework, participation and attendance. Your ideas, comments, suggestions regarding the class are encouraged.

Assignments	Points	
Research Paper	10%	Grade Scale: 100-94%=A 93-90 = A- 89-87=B+ 86-83 =B 82-80=B- 79-77=C+ 76-73=C 72-70=C- 69-67=D+ 66-63=D 62-60=D- 59 or less=F
15 Quizzes	30%	
Midterm & Final	25%	
Video Project	15%	
Homework & Class Participation	20%	
Total:	100%	

Absences/Late Work:

Attendance and classroom participation is factored into the students grade. Unexcused absences and tardiness will adversely affect grades. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor for information pertaining to missed assignments/quizzes, etc. Please note that scores for unexcused late assignments will be downgraded 20% for each class period it is late. Plagiarized research papers, cheating during tests, etc. may result in a failing grade.

Student Conduct:

For many students, this may well be one of the most fun and amazing classes they’ve ever taken... but there are a few things students should know before they are tempted to begin goofing off during class. Students are to be on time, to be respectful of others during class, to pay attention to the instructor, and to participate. It is expected that all students honor themselves and the others in class in everything they do.

I have received, understand and agree to the expectations outlined above:

Student Signature

Student Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name

Date