

American Sign Language I & II - Syllabus

Course goals:

ASL I students will be able to ask questions and give correct responses to any deaf person who uses sign language as their primary mode of communication. ASL II students will be able to carry a conversation with any deaf person who uses sign language as their primary mode of communication.

Objectives:

1. ASL I will be introduced to signs in the following categories: school, work, medical, numbers, money, people, food, travel, courtesy, feelings, action, clothing, time, weather, animals, building, transportation, sports, nature, government, colors, pronouns, adjectives, questions, negation, idioms. ASL II will master the aforementioned signs.
2. ASL I will be able to translate ASL sentences into English. ASL II will be able to translate ASL paragraphs into English.
3. ASL I & II will learn and review ASL grammatical structure, including the use of gestures, facial expression, body language, and classifiers.
4. ASL I will be able to use the manual alphabet to communicate individual concepts expressively and receptively. ASL II will be able to communicate concrete and abstract ideas through fingerspelling fluently.
5. ASL I & II will have knowledge of the following topics: History of ASL, Sign Language Systems, Education of the Deaf, Deaf Culture, Organizations for the Deaf, Interpreting for the Deaf, Audiology and Hearing Loss.

Requirements:

1. Bring a spiral notebook to class every day. Keep all notes taken in class in the notebook. Homework will be based on information kept in the notebook.
2. Review signs written in the notebook at least twice a week. Mark the signs that have been forgotten and add signs that have been learned during the current week.
3. Practice signing sentences and using fingerspelling in front of a mirror 15-20 minutes a day. Basically, talk to yourself in sign every day and keep a record of your practice time on a time sheet.
4. Attendance is imperative. This is a performance based class. Even people who already know sign language cannot pass the class without attending. Class projects, dialogue, written conversations, and quizzes must be done in class.
5. Everyone must sign with the teacher and with other students. Class participation is required. It is not an option.

Grading:

1. Weekly quizzes are given in one of the following three categories: Vocabulary, Fingerspelling, Sign Language Facts and Selected Topics (20 points/week)
2. Every student has participation points at the beginning of the following terms: 1st = 100, 2nd and 3rd = 200. 10 points are subtracted for every absence. Points can be earned back on an individual basis depending on a student's strengths and weaknesses.
3. A 200 word essay will be required every 6-week term. Topics will be related to foreign languages, deafness, communication techniques, sign language, etc. (50 points/term).
4. Class projects will be given every 6-week term. These projects will involve exchanging information with other students in the class using sign language. (25-50) points/project)
5. Dialogue sentences will have to be translated from English into ASL (signed to the teacher) every 6-week term. (20 points/10 sentences)

6. All students must sign a song for the class. ASL I must do a 2-3 minute song (100 points) before spring break. ASL II must do a 3-4 minute song (100 points) before Christmas vacation.
7. All ASL II students must sign an informative speech (2-3 minutes) in front of the class before spring break (100 points).
8. A final test will be given each semester covering Vocabulary and ASL Facts. (100 points)
9. All students will be given a grade based on his/her ability to converse with the teacher and other students each semester. (100 points)
10. All class presentations can be given at any time before the due date. This gives students more than a month to perform in front of the class.
11. All late assignments/performances will be accepted, and may receive a grade of 70% or lower.
12. Because quizzes become increasingly more difficult during the school year, a quiz score of "zero" (due to absence) will be replaced with the next quiz score in the same category. For example, a vocabulary quiz score can only be replaced with another vocabulary quiz score, not a fingerspelling quiz score.
13. Weekly performance grades, written conversations, and class project work cannot be made up. It is important to earn all points on current assignments as a backup for possible missing points in future assignments. There is no extra credit, but students may give informational speeches related in sign language to earn participation points.

Textbook:

American Sign Language: The Easy Way by David A. Stewart
Barron's Educational Series, Inc. Copyright 1998

Homework:

1. Practice signing in front of a mirror 15-20 minutes daily and record it on a timesheet.
2. Talk to yourself or another person using sign
3. Fingerspell words to yourself whenever you have spare time
4. Fingerspell in front of a mirror to practice receptive and receptive skills
5. Review sign language vocabulary lists that were developed in class
6. Review your notes for the informational quizzes given in sign
7. Be organized. Keep all of your papers in a folder and hand them in when requested.
8. Prepare for classroom presentations, do not expect time to work on them in class
9. Buy a sign language book as a reference or use the internet to look up signs (check on the correct use of these signs with me)
10. Email me if you questions or you just want to know your grade.
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Suggested websites:

Aslpro.com

Lifeprint.com

Asl.ms Dr. Bill Vicars ASL

Everyday ASL

com

