Course Syllabus

Department: Developmental Studies Department

Date: February 6, 2012

I. Course prefix and number: ASL 101

Course name: American Sign Language I

Credit and contact hours: 3 credit hours/3 contact hours

Catalogue Description including pre- and co-requisites: The course is the first in a series of courses designed to develop the skills and knowledge needed to communicate in American Sign Language. This course introduces basic sign language vocabulary and finger spelling. In addition, students will be introduced to aspects of American Deaf culture and history. Other relevant topics will be addressed.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives:

Student Learning Outcomes are guided and informed by National ASL Standards: The 5 C’s of Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate the ability to use and understand American Sign Language at a basic level:

- Students will be able to demonstrate a variety of simple statements and questions, and often the main idea of longer, but simple messages and conversations.
- Students will be able to initiate and respond to simple statements and questions, and be able to engage in basic face-to-face conversation within the framework of the vocabulary and grammar appropriate to this level.

Students will exhibit basic competency in fingerspelling.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Deaf culture and D/deaf history through reading and writing assignments.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the Deaf culture and D/deaf history through written researched assignments, formal evaluations, and class discussions.

Relationship to Academic Programs:
This course meets the General Education requirement in Foreign Language for students.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

☐ writing  ☐ ethics/values
III. Instructional Materials and Methods:

Types of Course Materials:
Instructional resources for this course will include texts designed specifically for the teaching American Sign Language, a variety of college level books, periodicals, and instructor developed materials.

Methods of Instruction:
Methods of instruction will include lecture, independent and group work, guests, videos, computer and on line instruction through available College platforms such as Angel. Students will also have the opportunity to attend Deaf culture events.

IV. Assessment Measures:
Formal and informal measures will be used to assess the Student Learning Outcomes. These measures will include formal unit tests to assess student’s receptive “listening” skills, including a written section to assess student’s knowledge of Deaf culture and history. Assessment of student’s expressive “speaking” skills will be assessed with a formal rubric. Additional assessment measures will include: journals, self-evaluation/reflection papers, research, and reports both written and signed. Critical thinking, computer literacy, and information resources will assessed through a research paper.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

I. Culture: ways of communicating; getting other’s attention; beginning and ending conversations; maintaining eye contact; making connections; negotiating signing environments.

II. History: Deaf Profiles: Significant People in Deaf History; American School for the Deaf (ASD); Gallaudet University; evolution of ASL (LSF, Martha’s Vineyard, indigenous signs); terminology (Deaf vs. deaf); debunking common myths.

III. Grammar: simple statements, commands, wh-questions, yes/no questions; affirmative and negative statements; topicalization (topic/comment structure); personal pronouns; contrastive structure; spatial agreement and spatial
relations; non-manual signals (cs, ah, oo, mm, cha); signer’s perspective; noun/verb pairs; classifiers (basic); symmetrical/nonsymmetrical signs; conveying distance.

IV. Communication: listener’s feedback; conversation flow; basic transitions.

V. Language: mini-dialogues; short personal narrative; language backgrounds; short storytelling segments; narrative structure; story cohesion; childhood story.

VI. Vocabulary: fingerspelling; colors; cardinal numbers (0-66); ordinal numbers (1st–9th); hobbies and activities; identifying people; simple descriptions of people (gender, clothing, appearance); types of residences; objects and settings related to home and school; living arrangements; locations in and around buildings; simple directions; basic food/drinks; basic equations (addition/subtraction); top world languages; degrees of remembering/forgetting; degrees of difficulty; frequency (lengths of time); modes of transportation; local cities/towns.