

**Course Credits:** 4

**Class meetings:** Tuesday – Friday, for 55 minutes

**Office & Mailbox:** 455 Hagerty Hall

This course is offered through the ASL Program, Center for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, College of Arts & Sciences. For more course or program information, contact Tia Jones, Interim Director of the ASL Program, at (614) 292-5392 or [jones.2246@osu.edu](mailto:jones.2246@osu.edu).

**PREREQUISITES:** None. Not open to students with credit for ASL 101, EDU T&L 101, English 101, or EM credit.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is the first course in the American Sign Language series that fulfills the GE skills category for foreign language credit. Students will develop beginning level ASL communication skills - receptive (listening) and expressive (speaking) - with vocabulary and grammar. American Deaf culture and history will be introduced with an emphasis on making comparisons and connections to one's own culture. Course instruction and activities are primarily in ASL. Courses in ASL may necessitate physical contact between students and/or instructor. This contact may include demonstrating culturally appropriate behaviors and/or remediating students' sign production.

### **GE Foreign Language Goals:**

Students demonstrate skills in communication across ethnic, cultural, ideological, and national boundaries, and appreciate other cultures and patterns of thought.

### **Expected Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students employ communicative skills (e.g. speaking, listening, reading, and/or writing) in a language other than their native language.
2. Students describe and analyze the cultural contexts and manifestations of the peoples who speak the language that they are studying.
3. Students compare and contrast the cultures and communities of the language that they are studying with their own.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES: After successful completion of this course, students will be able to...**

1. Identify, recognize, comprehend, and produce a variety of basic non-manual grammatical signals.
2. Identify, recognize, comprehend, and produce basic sentence structures.
3. Identify, recognize, comprehend, and produce basic features of spatialization.
4. Identify, recognize, comprehend, and produce basic features of syntax.
5. Identify, recognize, comprehend, and produce basic verbs and tenses.
6. Comprehend and produce basic narratives and dialogues.
7. Identify the purpose and effective use of gestures in signed-visual communication.
8. Discriminate between arbitrary and iconic signs.

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9. Identify the parameters of sign production.
10. Recognize, comprehend, and produce introductory vocabulary.
11. Identify the rules of fingerspelling.
12. Recognize, comprehend, and produce basic fingerspelling.
13. Identify, recognize, comprehend, and produce basic numbering systems.
14. Identify, recognize, comprehend, and produce pronouns.
15. Maintain appropriate eye contact during conversation.
16. Request clarification of information in a culturally appropriate manner.
17. Identify the origin and use of name signs.
18. Identify the origins of American Sign Language.
19. Identify the impact of causes of deafness and parents' hearing status on the development of language, culture, and community.
20. Identify the differences between "Deaf" and "deaf".
21. Identify general similarities and differences between American Sign Language, spoken languages, and other signed languages.
22. Identify the American Deaf culture as a minority culture and linguistic group embedded within the larger American culture.
23. Identify communication accommodations available for the deaf community.

### **REQUIRED TEXT(S) AND COURSE MATERIALS:**

- a. ASL series course packet. Available for purchase at Foreign Language Publications, 198 Hagerty Hall, (<http://flpubs.osu.edu/contact.cfm>).
- b. Daily access to the OSU Carmen course website for content including assignments and assessments, eReserve readings, streamed videos, grades, and class communication.
- c. Daily access to OSU email.
- d. Films and video clips shown during class and available on Carmen and Media Services.
- e. Access to You Tube for assigned self-study videos.
- f. Video recording device (video camera, cell phone, etc.)

### **APPROACHES TO THE MATERIAL:**

- Use of target language (ASL) for instruction and student participation
- Demonstration/modeling for instruction and student participation
- Guided/directed activities for instruction and student participation
- Lectures and active discussion (expressed in ASL and English)
- Student presentations-individually, partners, small groups (expressed in ASL and English)
- Film clips viewed in class and independently
- Assigned independent readings available on Carmen through eReserve
- Written reflective responses to texts, film, discussions, and experiences
- Video/web exercises for in-class instruction and independent practice

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## STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

This class is worth a total of 500 points. Your grade in this class will be based on the general breakdown of assignments below. Read further for more detailed explanations of each category. All grades will be posted on Carmen.

### **GRADING SCALE**

A	465-500 points	C+	385-399 points	E	0-299 points
A-	450-464 points	C	365-384 points		
B+	435-449 points	C-	350-364 points		
B	415-434 points	D+	335-349 points		
B-	400-414 points	D	300-334 points		

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>Point value</b>
Receptive Tests (Test #1=50 points and Final = 100 points)	150
Expressive Tests (2 X 75 points each)	150
Quizzes (10 x 10 points each)	100
Self-Evaluation of Expressive Test #1	10
Knowledge Test: Language, Culture, Community, & History (LCCH) [Carmen online]	50
Linguistic Analysis: Sign Iconicity Project	40
<b>Total Class Points</b>	<b>500</b>

### RECEPTIVE TESTS

The receptive tests assess your understanding of signed communication and grammatical concepts. These tests will be given during regular class time as scheduled on the syllabus. Details will be explained in class and posted on Carmen. Receptive tests can NOT be made up – unless given **PRIOR APPROVAL**.

### EXPRESSIVE TESTS

The expressive tests assess your ASL expressive skills using vocabulary and grammar structures. These tests may be completed individually or interactively. During interactive expressive tests, your receptive skills and your use of culturally appropriate behaviors will also be assessed. These tests will be filmed for grading and student review purposes. Both will be held during regular class time as scheduled on the syllabus. Details will be explained in class and posted on Carmen. Expressive tests can NOT be made up – unless given **PRIOR APPROVAL**.

## **QUIZZES (ANNOUNCED and UNANNOUNCED)**

Attendance at all class sessions is essential for you to develop proficiency in ASL. In order to assess your development, there will be frequent quizzes that may take place at anytime during a class. Quizzes may assess receptive or expressive skills as well as Language, Culture, Community, and History (LCCH) content.

There will be five announced quizzes and five unannounced quizzes. Under **NO** circumstances are quizzes made up.

The five **ANNOUNCED** quizzes will have the dates specified and given to you by the instructor. These quizzes are not found on the weekly schedule of the syllabus. In order to learn the dates of the quiz you will need to attend class.

The **UNANNOUNCED** quizzes will be given at any time at the discretion of the instructor without any announcement prior to the quiz.

## **SELF-EVALUATION OF EXPRESSIVE TEST 1**

On the day of your first expressive test, you will be asked to bring a recording device (video camera, cell phone, etc.) with you to class. You will have one week from the date of the test to watch your video and complete the self-evaluation assignment. Details will be explained in class and posted on Carmen.

## **KNOWLEDGE TEST OF LANGUAGE, CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND HISTORY (LCCH)**

The knowledge test will assess your knowledge of cultural and linguistic topics addressed in class and in the course resources. The knowledge test will be available online, during a designated time period, through the Carmen course page. Details will be explained in class and posted on Carmen. The test **CAN NOT** be taken after the deadline – unless given **PRIOR APPROVAL**.

## **LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS: Sign Iconicity Project**

As you are introduced to the linguistics of American Sign Language, you will further explore the topic of *sign iconicity* through an independent analysis project. This is to develop your understanding of ASL as a unique and true language separate from English, and also to specifically demonstrate your understanding of the terms “iconic” and “arbitrary” as they apply to ASL linguistics. Details for these assignments will be discussed in class and posted on Carmen. This assignment is to be submitted to the Carmen Dropbox by the start of class on the day it is due.

## **LATE WORK POLICY:**

Writing assignments (self-evaluation and linguistic analysis) must be turned in by the due date and time to be eligible to earn full credit. Extensions will only be granted to students who have received **PRIOR APPROVAL** from their instructor.

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If there are extenuating circumstances that do *not* allow for prior approval and you turn in an assignment late, this work will be accepted with a 10% deduction per day beyond the due date. Once the number of days late causes a point deduction equal to a zero grade, the work will not be accepted.

**Note:** The late work policy does not apply to tests. See the specific test description for the policy on make-ups.

### **Extra Credit**

The ASL program is offering inter-level ASL conversation tables (hosted by program instructors) as the extra credit opportunity. These conversation tables are **NOT** tutoring sessions. The role of the instructor is to facilitate communication, if necessary, while the students lead and direct the conversation. The topics of discussion are diverse and follow the interests of the students in attendance.

As an attendee, you are responsible to have topics to discuss and to participate in the conversation. Do not depend on the Instructor to lead the conversation. This is an excellent opportunity to practice your ASL skills in a casual and friendly environment.

To earn extra credit, students must attend:

- 3 conversation tables of an hour in length
- OR-
- 5 conversation tables of 30 minutes in length

**Note:** Students cannot mix attendance lengths to earn the extra credit.

The conversation tables meet twice weekly and are held in 455B Hagerty Hall (dates and times will be posted to Carmen). After attending either the 3 or 5 tables, students will earn a one percent (1%) increase to their final course grade. During each conversation table, attendance will be taken and then passed along to all of the ASL Instructors.

### **Writing Center**

Students are expected to demonstrate college level writing skills for assignments in this course. Trained consultants are available for support at the Writing Center. Call 614-688-4291 or visit [www.cstw.org](http://www.cstw.org) to make an appointment, complete an online tutorial, or review their resources.

### **ONLINE RESOURCES recommended for self-study, research, and general interest:**

- a. Fingerspelling Practice : <http://www.asl.ms/>
- b. Number Practice : <http://www.asl.bz/>
- c. Carmen course page “Library” link: [www.carmen.osu.edu](http://www.carmen.osu.edu)
- d. OSU Library ASL subject page: <http://library.osu.edu/find/subjects/american-sign-language/>
- e. ASL Lecture Series DVD archives:  
<http://library.ohiostate.edu/search~S7/?searchtype=t&searcharg=ASL+lecture+series&searchscope=7&SORT=DZ&extended=0&SUBMIT=Search&searchlimits=&searcho>

- f. ASL Video dictionary and Inflection Guide. National Technical Institute for the Deaf.  
<http://www.ntid.rit.edu/dictionary> ; also smart phone App available “ASL Dictionary from NTID”

### **CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY:**

In the unlikely event of class cancellation due to emergency, I will contact you via email and post an announcement on the home page of our Carmen course site, under “News”. I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancellation to let you know how the syllabus and work deadlines will be affected.

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University’s *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute “Academic Misconduct.”

The Ohio State University’s *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process.” Such instances include, but are not limited to: plagiarism (representing as one’s own work anything done by another), cheating on assignments or examinations, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), falsification of excuses, submitting work from a previous semester without explicit permission of the current instructor, receiving or passing exam information to other students before, during or after the exam (cheating in this case applies both to the receiver of the exam information and the person who gives the information), and violation of course rules contained in the syllabus or provided in class. Ignorance of the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an “excuse” for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct. This document is available at: [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

### **DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability you must contact your instructor privately to

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discuss your specific needs. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated. To ensure that accommodations can be prepared for, you must provide appropriate documentation from the Office for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. Accommodations will not be made retroactively. The Office for Disability Services can be reached at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall (<http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>).

### **PREPARATION FOR & PARTICIPATION IN CLASS**

Preparation for class, active participation in class, and being punctual are important for your skill development and your success in this course. You will benefit from daily review and practice with ASL. Homework for this purpose and/or for cultural knowledge may be assigned during the semester and may require using the video clips, readings, and your independent creation or collection of materials. You are expected to complete the preparation before class starts, bring any materials to class, and participate in class activities and discussions.