**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1**

**Reedley Community College**

**Fall Semester: Tuesdays/ Thursdays 6:00PM- 7:50PM**

**August 13, 2019-December 12, 2019**

**Instructor:** Elbert Cruz

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**Office Hours: TBA**

**Room: POR 1**

**Course Description**

This class is an introduction course into American Sign Language. Students will learn beginning sign language for communication purposes with members of the Deaf community. Students will learn vocabulary, idioms, grammar, about the Deaf culture, and the community involved in the culture. Students will also understand, examine and demonstrate the understanding of appropriate behaviors for social interaction with Deaf people.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

ASL-1 SLO1: analyze and formulate spontaneous but limited conversations and discussions using ASL at a level expected for beginning signers.

ASL-1 SLO2: examine the basic aspects of the culture of the deaf community and compare and contrast Deaf and hearing cultures.

ASL-1 SLO3: use the basic structures and principles of ASL to formulate simple questions to ask for information.

ASL-1 SLO4: use the basic structures and principles of ASL to evaluate and respond to short, simple sign instructions.

**Course Objectives:**

Use basic structures and principles of ASL to respond to short simple sign instructions.

Use beginning level expressive and receptive skills to demonstrate comprehension of video presentations.

Demonstrate the appropriate vocabulary, syntax, and morphological features of ASL

Complete writing assignments pertaining to specific cultural materials of Deaf culture.

Develop an understanding of proper role shifting, eye gazing, and usage of temporal aspects for verb influence.

Present on a specific cultural topic using their expressive ASL skills.

**Required Textbook:**

*Signing Naturally, Level One.* Smith, C., Lentz, E., Mikos, K., DawnSignPress, 1993 (Expanded Version) Student workbook and Videotext.

**Course Requirements:**

Class attendance is a MUST. (Students will attend and participate in all group and class activities).

Students need to bring their textbook every class session.

Students are required to keep up with the course syllabus, pay attention to course due dates, and know when exams are.

Students are required to take quizzes at the end of each unit. (20 points each)

**Grading System:**

Class Participation 60

Quizzes 100

Homework 35

Reflection Papers (2 of them.) 25 points each

ASL Expressive Story 35

Midterm 70

Final 100

**Maximum Points 450**

Grades Assigned as Follows:

405-450 **A**

360-404 **B**

315-359 **C**

270-314 **D**

0-269 **F**

* No late assignments
* Quizzes, Midterms, and exams cannot be made up without documented paperwork
* Absences result in a loss of 2 points per day due to lack of participation in class.

**Classroom Rules:**

* Please turn off all cell phones in class.
* No texting, no radios, no iPad, headphones, laptops, etc.
* Pay attention to others when they are signing
* Respect others’ opinions
* Arrive to class on time, bring your book, and participate
* If you are sick or not going to make it to class. Please email your instructor.
* If you have questions please email your instructor
* No cheating

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations:**

Refer to the student handbook at [www.reedleycollege.edu](https://word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/www.austincc.edu). Please let me know in writing how I can accommodate my class to your needs.

**Academic Dishonesty Statement:**

Students at Reedley College are entitled to their best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

**Cheating:**

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, including the teacher edition of the textbook, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to copying from another’s work supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another’s words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source(s). Plagiarism may include, but is not limited tom failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

**#1,#2 Reflection Paper:**

**Deaf Event Reflection Questions for One-Page Paper**

Students, use these questions to help you write your TYPED one-page, 12-point font, double spaced reflections paper. Title should be SINGLE spaced. Your Deaf event should total no less than 1.5 hours. Some events you’ll NEED to stay the whole time **(attend two of these events (or others that I announce) during the semester.)** You must type one reflection paper per event. Questions may vary depending on the Deaf event. Change or add accordingly. Additionally, you must provide proof that you went to the event by, depending on the event, providing physical copies of pictures, tickets, bracelets, wristbands, etc.

Answer the following questions:

1. Explain in detail where you went, with whom, and date and time of the Deaf event.
2. Who did you talk to and how many Deaf or hard of hearing people did you sign with?
3. What questions did you ask and what questions did they ask you?
4. Did you feel comfortable signing to them? Why or why not?
5. What new signs did you learn?
6. What did you learn about their upbringing and family life? How many Deaf and hearing people in their family?
7. Did you notice any differences in signing within the Deaf community? If so, explain what they were (facial expression, hand movement, speed, ASL, PSE, SEE).
8. What did you like about participating in this Deaf event?
9. What did you learn or observe about deafness, deaf culture, or communication in general?

**\*Both assignments will be due by Tuesday, November 26, 2019.**

\*All events must be approved in advance. Most of these events are not in Reedley. You may need to drive to Fresno or to Visalia, if not farther. I understand that it may be difficult to travel, so make arrangements in advance. I approve certain events because I predict they will be well attended by members of the Deaf community. **If you need to carpool with classmates make those arrangements in advance.**

**Class Participation and Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, be on time, and be in class the entire class session. Calling or emailing your teacher to tell me you will be absent does not excuse you. If you decide to drop the course it is your responsibility to make the drop official in the Administrations and Records office. 3 consecutive absences and the student will be dropped from the course.

\*When you are not here then you are not participating. 2 points will be deducted for each absence.

**Expectations for a note taking:**

You are expected to take notes during class!!

To succeed in this class, you must take responsibility for your learning. For example:

* If you are not following what is going on in class, raise your hand to ask for clarification (or at least show me on your face that you don’t understand). You MUST tell me if you are lost before I get too far ahead. Unlike other classes, you can’t find the answer in a book later, and I often can’t figure out where you got lost if you ask me after class. My signed conversations with other students are a great learning tool for all of you, even if you already caught what I signed. Be sure to watch how I respond when someone doesn’t understand me.
* Since there will be no spoken English used in class, it is imperative that you do your homework and ***check with a classmate*** if you have to miss a class. If you allow yourself to fall behind, it will be very difficult to catch up.
* Practice and memorize signs at home as soon as you can after class is over. If you don't remember how to produce a sign, come to class early enough to write it on the board. I will review any signs written on the board at the beginning of class.

**No Voice/English Mouthing Policy:**

Avoid talking or mouthing words during class. Once the instructor enters the classroom, please silence yourself and only sign with your peers. Talking while not signing in the presence of a Deaf instructor or any Deaf person is considered rude in Deaf culture. Write notes to each other if you must but make an effort to **SIGN**! This **NO VOICE** rule will be enforced from the beginning until the end of the class. If you own a pager, or cell phone, please turn it off during class.

The skills to be developed in the class depend on visual perception and memory. Use of auditory stimuli discourages this learning process for both the person talking and other students in the class. The students will experience cross-cultural interaction between Deaf and hearing people. It is important that student recognize and respect culture. Those who choose to ignore the no voice/mouthing policy, **twenty-five (25) points** **for** **each and every** incident of talking/mouthing words in class, will be deducted from the final grade.

**Rationale:**

Skills depend on visual perception and memory. Use of auditory stimuli inhibits this learning process of both the person talking and other students in the class. In this class, students will experience cross-cultural interaction between Deaf and hearing people. It is important that students recognize and respect the culture.

**Important Dates:**

* No Class September 2, November 28-29 (Thanksgiving Holiday)
* Midterm TBA
* Reflection Papers November 26
* ASL Expressive Story TBA
* Final Exam Week of December 9-13 (Exact Date to be announced)

**Fall 2019 Schedule- Reedley College: American Sign Language 1**

**WEEK 1**

August 13/15 Syllabus, Introduction to the Deaf Community, Learning ASL Strategies, Deaf Awareness Quiz

**WEEK 2**

August 20/22 Fingerspelling/ Numbers/ Getting to know you

**WEEK 3**

August 27/29. Same or Different 2 / Asking Who/ Specifying Where (Inside, Above, and Below) / Giving Commands

**WEEK 4**

September 3/5 Following Instructions/ Culture: Getting Attention/ Review Chapter 1/ **QUIZ # 1**

**WEEK 5**

September 10/12 Giving Information/ Identifying Locations/ Narrating Experience with Languages/ Fingerspelling Up Letters

**WEEK 6**

September 17/19 Talking about Leisure Activities/ Describing 3 types of Shapes/ Identifying People Fingerspelling Double Letters

**WEEK 7**

September 24/26 Culture: Negotiating a Signing Environment/ Asking What is the Sign/ **QUIZ #2**

**WEEK 8**

October 1/3 Telling Where One Lives/ Giving Commands: Locations/ Communicating with the face/ Discussing One’s Residence

**WEEK 9**

October 8/10 Giving Basic Directions/ Identifying Which Square1 / Talking about Roommates and Pets / Expressing Needs

**WEEK 10**

October 15/17 3.14 Identifying Which Square / Review for Midterm/ Midterm Part 1 (Receptive Portion)/ Midterm Part 2 (Signing Portion)

**WEEK 11**

October 22/24 Talking about family/ Negation / Have, Like, Want, and Need/ Talking about Siblings

**WEEK 12**

October 29/31 Age/ Talking about Extended Family/ Telling How Family Members are Related / Negation 2/Discussing Family Variations

**WEEK 13**

November 5/ 7 Getting the Meaning Across/ Commenting on Family Members/ Culture: Maintaining a Clear Sightline/ **QUIZ #3**

**WEEK 14**

November 12/14 Talking about Every Day Activities / Agreement Verbs / Talking about Chores/ Asking if Done

**WEEK 15**

November 19/21. Talking about Errands/ Telling How Often/ Talking about Activities with Others/ Talking about What one Does for a Living

**WEEK 16**

November 26 Storytelling (6.1-6.16)

**WEEK 17**

November 3/5 Papers Due (ASL Express Story)/ ASL Express Story/ Final Exam Review

**WEEK 18** FINAL EXAMS WEEK