**Reedley Community College**

**American Sign Language 1**

**Spring 2018**

**Instructor: Omar Ruiz Class: MW 6-7:50PM**

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**ASL 1 – AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I (3 units)**

**Course Description:** This course is a study of fundamentals of American Sign Language.

Students will learn the basics of visual/gestural communication and grammatical structures with emphasis on receptive and expressive skills, including intensive practice, finger spelling, individual evaluation, and basic information about Deaf culture.

**Course Objectives**: Visual training, receptive and expressive skill development, vocabulary and social development, assigned lesson in class/homework, completion of exams, completion of pop quizzes, , midterm, final exam and attendance of a Deaf Event.

**Course Outcomes:** Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. Conversation

Given the basic structures of ASL and Deaf culture, students will be able to engage in spontaneous conversation using accurate expressive and receptive skills at the beginning level and be able to ask and answer questions using a basic vocabulary of 300 signs and correct grammatical structure.

1. Fingerspelling

Given the task to communicate with a person who is deaf, students will be able to execute, read, and understand fingerspelling and use it as a necessary part of a larger conversation in ASL at the beginning level.

1. Deaf Culture

Given a situation in which knowledge of the Deaf community is necessary to communicate, students will be able to identify and give examples of Deaf cultural attributes beyond stereotypes and articulate basic fundamental values that will facilitate effective environments for interaction. Students will demonstrate their basic understanding through a report or project identifying salient aspects of the Deaf community and the impacts of living in a multilingual culture, using examples of their experiences with Deaf people.

**Required Text:** Smith, C., Lentz, E., & Mikos, K. (2008). Signing naturally: Student workbook units 1-6. San Diego, California: Dawn Sign Press.

**Class Participation & Expectations**

\* In order to facilitate the learning of ASL, students are encouraged NOT to speak in the classroom. Therefore, leave your voice outside the classroom. ASL is a visual language, not an auditory language. This will be part of your class participation points.

\* Students are encouraged to raise their hand and ask the instructor when they do not understand what the instructor is teaching. It is every student’s responsibility to ask for clarification and the instructor will be happy to clarify. ☺

\* Students are not expected to understand every sign the first time they see it, but they are encouraged to keep trying by observing and participating as much as possible.

\* Making mistakes is an expected part of the learning process. Therefore, please do not feel afraid of making errors.

\* It is strongly encouraged for you to have daily study groups or have a classmate to practice your signing skills.

\* The most important thing you can do is relax. Watch and practice, practice, and practice! ☺

**Grades and Requirements**:

**Attendance and Class Participation**

Students are required to attend all classes since active participation is VITAL to the learning process and acquisition of the basic principles of ASL. Points will be deducted for lack of participation in class. Points will also be deducted for excessive talking in class and use of pagers/cell phone. Please use your voice and pagers/cell phones outside of class.

Canvas a **MUST** for this course. Please check Canvas regularly for announcements, assignments, handouts for class, emails, and grades. To enroll onto Canvas:

**Exams**

Exam dates will always be announced at the class prior to the exam. The five exams will consist of receptive skills in ASL as well as essay and or multiple choice / true false questions. One lowest exam will automatically be dropped. See tentative schedule below for week by week schedule. There will be absolutely **NO** make up exams. No exceptions!

**Pop Quizzes**

The ten pop quizzes will consist of essay and or questions from your assigned readings and textbook and/or receptive skills. There will be absolutely **NO** make up pop quizzes. No exceptions!

**Class Assignments or Canvas Discussion Board Posts**

Five Class Assignments or Canvas Discussion Board Posts will be given throughout the semester. Class Assignments will be given in class. Canvas Discussion Board Posts will be under “Discussion Board” in Canvas. I will inform you of the due dates as the semester progresses. No late assignments or posts accepted after the due dates.

**Final**

The Final exam will be cumulative. I will inform you of the date for the Final as the semester progresses. There will be **NO Final exam make-ups.** Monday, Dec. 18th @ 9:10, we will meet to find out your final overall grade.

**I.** **Classroom Rules**

**· Turn off all cell phones in class.**

**No texting, ipads, ipods, iphones and laptops**

**· 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**

**Points for the Final Grade in Class (Total points = 500):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class Participation | 25 |
| No Voice | 25 |
| 10 Pop Quizzes | 100 (10 Point Each) |
| Song | 50 |
| 5 Research Papers | 100 (20 Point Each) |
| Midterm Exam | 100 |
| Final Exam | 100 |
| Total | 500 |

The student grades will be calculated objectively as follows:

500 – 448 A

447 – 398 B

397 – 348 C

347 – 298 D

297 – 0 F

**Policies:**

**Plagiarism and Cheating**

Plagiarism/cheating is a serious academic offense that is not tolerated. A student who plagiarizes on an exam or other assignments will receive a grade of 0 (zero) points for the assignment or exam. Further follow-up will be handled in accordance with the college’s policies and procedures.

**Accomodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation per the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. If you are a student with a disability and/or have questions regarding people with disabilities and services this office may provide, you are encouraged to access the Access and Ability Center at 559.730.3805.

**Tentative Schedule Spring 2018**

Week 1: January 14-16

-Introducing to this course, classmates, and syllabus review.

-ABC’s

-Preview of Unit 1

Week 2: January 15 & 17

-Preview of Unit 1

- Practice Your ABC’s, How To Introduce Yourself

Week 3: January 21 & 23

-Unit 1 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 4: January 28 & 30

-Unit 1 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 5: February 4 & 6

-Assignment#1 Due

-Unit 2 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 6: February 11 & 13

-Summarize of Unit 1 with Unit 2 Notes, and Class Activities

Week 7: February 18 & 20

-Unit 2 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 8: February 25 & 27

-Unit 3 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 9: March 4 & 6

-Assignment #2 Due

-Review for Midterm

Week 10: March 11 & 13

-Midterm

Week 11: March 18 & 20

-Unit 3 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 12: March 25- 27

-No School- SPRING BREAK! HAVE FUN!

Week 13: April 1 & 3

-Unit 4 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

-Assignment #3 Due

-Unit 4 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 14: April 8 & 10

-Unit 5 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 15: April 15 & 17

-Unit 5 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 16: April 22 & 24

-Unit 6 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

Week 17: April 30 & May 2

-Unit 6 (Notes, Class Activities, & Review)

-Assignment #4 due

Week 18: May 6 & 8

Week 18: May 13-15

**:**Final

:Assignment #5 Due

**\*Review for Signed Final**

\***Signed Final Exam**

**\*This is a tentative schedule, it may be changed according to the progress of the class.**

**NOTE: YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED ONE OR TWO CLASS SESSIONS PRIOR TO THE DATE THE QUIZ IS TO BE GIVEN!!**

Remember to relax, enjoy and have a great Spring semester!! ☺