

## **Introduction to American Sign Language**

### **Course Overview:**

This course will involve as much communication as possible in the target language of American Sign Language (ASL). While communicating, our goal is to keep our voices off and our eyes on as we practice our receptive (visual) skills as well as our productive skills. "Introduction to American Sign Language" will provide students with a head start in an ASL 1 course. For students who have previous exposure to ASL, this will be a review that will sharpen and fine tune your current skills. For students who have never used ASL, this class will prepare you for a future ASL course.

### **Course Description:**

This class will provide students with the beginning fundamentals of ASL by learning about Handshapes, Facial expressions, Vocabulary, Syntax, Semantics, and many phrases that will allow the student to participate in signed conversations. We will also be discussing many minorities while focusing on the culture and community of people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

### **Course Goals and Objectives**

- Goal:** To be able to initiate conversation and introduce themselves.  
**Objective:** Learn how to fingerspell their name.  
**Objective:** Know greetings and goodbyes.
- Goal:** To learn about others by asking personal questions.  
**Objective:** Learn how to ask "yes/no" questions and the Facial Expressions that are required to ask those.  
**Objective:** Learn how to ask "Wh-" questions and the Facial Expressions that are required to ask those.  
**Objective:** Analyzing the grammar behind the two types of questions and understanding the benefits of having different formats.
- Goal:** To communicate in American Sign Language  
**Objective:** Use scripted dialogue for students to first observe, then later, produce.  
**Objective:** Initiate improvised dialogue for students to participate in.  
**Objective:** Keeping a "voices off" environment in order to emerge students into the world of American Sign Language.
- Goal:** To learn about a new minority and what it is to be Deaf  
**Objective:** Compare and contrast different minorities with people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.  
**Objective:** Through videos, texts, experiences, and presentations; the many different ways to be Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

## **Course Textbook:**

*Signing Naturally Units 1-6* by Cheri Smith, Ella Mae Lentz, and Ken Mikos.

## **Course Materials:**

Students should come prepared to class with three things:

1. Spiral notebook
2. Blue or black ink pen and/or pencil
3. Positive attitude!

## **Course Grading**

Homework:	30%
*Participation:	50%
Projects:	10%
Tests:	10%

-\*Participation is focused on how engaged the student is during class; I hope to see students who are actively involved in conversations while NOT using their voice in class. As well as not using their voice, participation also includes students not using electronic devices during class. Lastly, participation is about allowing everyone in the classroom to teach each other and learn from each other by providing a safe environment that is both respectful and fun to be a part of!

## **Homework and Classwork:**

Students will have multiple assignments throughout the week that will be worked on both in class and at home. Students can expect to have approximately 10-15 minutes of homework each night. Each week will consist of a journal assignment that will be assigned on Mondays and due on Fridays at the end of the week. Much of the class is about using American Sign Language in a conversational setting, meaning the best way for a student to improve his/her skills will be by practicing recently learned vocabulary and phrases outside of the classroom. This is not mandatory or graded homework, but instead, highly encouraged and the extra effort will be clearly displayed during class.

## **Grading Policy:**

A	=	90%-100%
B	=	80%-89%
C	=	70%-79%
D	=	60%-69%
F	=	59% or Below

## **Academic Integrity**

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism: "1. the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work."

("Plagiarism." Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1). Random House, Inc. 20 Feb. 2009.

<Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Plagiarism>>.)

Access to technology makes it easier to copy the work of others. Students will learn what constitutes plagiarism and how to steer clear of it. As a rule, if there are three words in a row that someone else can claim, cite it. Plagiarism is stealing and cheating and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is against the law.

The first time a student is caught plagiarizing, there will be a teacher/student conference, a phone call home, no credit given for the assignment, and notification given to the SAEP office.

Copying from a fellow classmate is also unacceptable on homework assignments and individual assessments. The consequences are the same as above.

### **Teacherease.com:**

Parents and students can access grades and attendance through a web-based grade program at teacherease.com. By the end of the first week, parents will be emailed the password to access the program. If you do not receive your password via email, please contact the office staff at saep@csun.edu and request the password to be re-sent. It is beneficial for you to refer often to the website to check your child's progress and attendance in class. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

### **Classroom Behavior:**

The student is expected to demonstrate mature, polite behavior and extend courtesy to everyone at all times:

1. Actively participate, and respectful verbal and nonverbal interaction with all opinions must be shown at all times.
2. Since differing views will be expressed, the teacher and the student(s) will mutually maintain a safe environment for courteous dialogue.
3. Respect is to be shown for all CSUN property.
4. No food or beverages will be permitted in the classroom. Snacks must be eaten outside between the designated breaks.
5. Warnings for behavior / discipline problems will be given once. Any further problems will result in a phone call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and possible dismissal from the program.

## **SAEP Electronics Policy**

**Cell phones, music players and headphones are not permitted to be used during class hours.**

- a. Please put your cell phone on silent (NOT vibrate).
- b. No texting is allowed during class.

You will be given one verbal warning if the above is not followed. Should a second warning be necessary, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held by the teacher until after class. If a third time occurs, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held in the SAEP office and **MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT.**

## Introduction to ASL

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After reading through the syllabus, please sign and date and have your student return it to class. The signature constitutes your commitment to the class as we partner to make the next five weeks a life-long educational experience for your student.

**Student/ Parent Agreement:**

Please bring this signed and dated **Introduction to ASL** syllabus agreement to class tomorrow.

If you do not understand any portion of this syllabus, or if you have any questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to email the teacher.

We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_