

College of the Holy Cross  
ASL/Deaf Studies Program  
Fall 2013

Course Title: DFST 201-01 Intermediate American Sign Language I

Instructor: Ying Li

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Office: Stein 429

Class Location: Stein 202

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8am ~ 9am and by appointment

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30pm ~ 1:45pm

**Course Description:** A continuation of the Elementary ASL level. Focus is on increasing the students' vocabulary in ASL and use of the correct grammatical structure of the language. Further exposure to more sophisticated dialogue is presented. Improving competency in both visual and receptive ASL skills in social situations and increased understanding of Deaf culture to better understand through interaction with members of the Deaf community. Assignments are video and used for student evaluations. In addition to the class time, students are required to participate in a Community Based Learning (CBL) partnership program where ASL is used.

**Course Objectives:** Student will concentrate on developing expressive and receptive skills in American Sign Language (ASL). Evaluation of student will be determined by written quizzes, performance examinations, videos and other assigned graded exercises/homework. Student will attain competence and demonstrate an ability to use some complex grammar rules of ASL, conventional skills and more complicated inflectional processes. Student will be exposed to build up ASL expressions and vocabulary.

**Required Textbooks and Materials:**

1. Smith, C., Lentz, E. & Mikos, K. (1992). *Vista Signing Naturally: Student Workbook Level 2*. San Diego, CA: DawnSignPress (with DVD).
2. Jay, M. (2011). *Don't Just Sign... Communicate!: A Student's guide to Mastering American Sign Language Grammar*. Los Angeles, CA: Judea Media, LLC.

**Teaching/Classroom Philosophy:** "Immersion" philosophy will be used as the means of instruction and will be reinforced throughout the semester. Since the eyes, NOT the ears, are used in receiving information via ASL, students are encouraged NOT to speak or use their voices in class.

**Course Requirements:**

- Students will complete video/textbook assignments that correspond to the units covered in class (Units 13 and 14).
- Students will complete any assigned reading and homework assignments on time.
- Students will have quizzes on the information covered in the class. NO MAKE-UP quizzes will be given.
- Students will have a final exam for receptive and expressive skills in ASL.

Community Based Learning (CBL):

Students in Intermediate ASL level are required to participate in a CBL partnership program for two hours per week this semester. (This is in lieu of the ASL Lab sessions typically taken with language classes). CBL programs will continue weekly and last the entire year. The goal is to have the ASL students involved outside the classroom, using the language consistently with members of the Deaf community. Attendance and participation at CBL will be factored into the student's overall grade. CBL experiences will be discussed in class throughout the semester. The CBL will start on **Monday, September 23** and end on **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**.

You need to contact the person that you will work with and get prepared by **September 12**. You will need to finish the paper and handle the form to the instructor by **October 1<sup>st</sup>**.

The CBL Site:

- Be active and responsible at your specific site.
- Submit a specific schedule of your day/time at the site. Include contact information.
- Complete a site "project". This is determined between the students and site supervisor.
- Site supervisors will complete final evaluations. These will be factored into your final grade.

CBL Reflection Video (6~10 minutes):

Submit a reflection video in ASL and email me by **December 5<sup>th</sup>**.

1. Describe your specific "site project" that you hope to accomplish.
2. Final summary and reflection of CBL experience thus far.
3. Are your goals being met?
4. Have the goals been changed or adjusted?
5. How did you link the Service Learning Theory to your actual experience?

ASL Performances:

You are required to prepare and demonstrate your ASL skills by telling two stories in class.

- 1) *The Gallaudet and Clerc Story* (3~5 minutes) (**November 5~7**)
- 2) *One-Handshake Story* (p. 17): You will create and present a one-handshake story. You can decide on a topic that fascinates you the most. Your story should be between 1 and 3 minutes long. (**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**)

Homework: Deaf Event Video (4~6 minutes):

Students are required to attend at least two deaf events this semester. You are expected to participate in the event and interact with other Deaf individuals. Please email me your video link (youtube, vimeo, etc.) by **Tuesday, November 26**.

Deaf Events:

- **Coffee Hour: Thursdays @ 4-6pm, Hogan Cool Beans (September 19 ~ November 21)**
- **It's a Deaf Deaf World: September 26 @ 6-8pm, location: TBA**
- **ASL Mass: October 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 14 @ 7~8pm, McCooley Chapel**
- **ASL Dinner: TBA**

### There is no extra credit offered in this class

#### Students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times.

- No sleeping, reading, or talking in class
- Please advise instructor if you need to leave class early
- Make sure cell phones are turned to silent

**Students with Disabilities:** Students who are identified as disabled by College of the Holy Cross should submit their documentation to the instructor early in the semester. In order to provide reasonable accommodations, the instructor must know what is needed and be given adequate time to consider options.

#### Class Attendance and Participation:

- You must attend class regularly and on time. The class attendance is essential because the important materials are covered during each class. If you must miss a class, you are still responsible for everything covered that day.
- **NOTE:** Unless for some reason, you have to miss the class due to a medical situation or school-related function (i.e., field trip, athletic competition, drama presentation or others), you need to provide an official memo from your doctor, coach, or your Dean as a proof of your absence in the advanced time.

#### Evaluation/Grading:

Grades will be based on student performance in the following areas:

Attendance and participation (includes CBL)	10%
Quiz: Unit 13	10%
Quiz: Unit 14	10%
Quiz: M. Jay's book	10%
ASL performances	20%
Homework	10%
CBL reflection video	15%
Final exam	15%
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	100 %

A	95-100	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	F	62 or lower
C+	77-79		

**Class Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics to be covered</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments</b>
Week 1 8/29	Introduction	
Week 2 9/3, 9/5	Review Units 1-12 Unit 13: Locating Things Around the House	Read: Unit 13
Week 3 9/10,9/12	Unit 13	
Week 4 9/17,9/19	Unit 13	
Week 5 9/24,9/26	Unit 13 Quiz: Unit 13	Review Unit 13
Week 6 10/1,10/3	ASL Signs and Vocabulary	Read: M. Jay's book (p.23~56)
Week 7 10/8,10/10	Unit 14: Complaining, Making Suggestions and Requests	Read: Unit 14
Week 8 10/15,10/17	<b>No class (Fall Break)</b>	
Week 9 10/22,10/24	Unit 14	
Week10 10/29,10/31	ASL Grammar	Read: M. Jay's book (p.57~117)
Week11 11/5,11/7	ASL Performance #1: <i>The Gallaudet and Clerc Story</i>	
Week 12 11/12,11/14	Unit 14 Quiz: M. Jay's book (November 14)	Review M. Jay's book (p.23~117)
Week 13 11/19,11/21	Unit 14	Review Unit 14
Week 14 11/26	Quiz: Unit 14	Deaf Event Video Due
11/28	<b>No class (Thanksgiving Holiday)</b>	
Week15 12/3,12/5	ASL Performance #2: One-Handshake Story (Dec. 3) Review for Final Exam	CBL Reflection Video Due: December 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Final Exam: TBA</b>		