

DFST 01
American Sign Language 1: Spring 2010



Course #	Class Days and Time	Location
43775	T/H 4:15 pm – 6:20 pm	Gateway, Room 219

Welcome to Class!

I'm glad you are here! You can do this! I'll be your guide as we travel into the world of ASL. I've been teaching ASL for over 20 years and I am passionate about it. You've picked a great topic to be studying. ASL is an exciting subject that can open for you a new world of relationships and understanding.

Instructor:

Belinda G. Vicars, MFA BelindaGVicars@aol.com

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Course description:

Basic vocabulary and grammar of American Sign Language. Upon completion, participants will be able to exchange information about themselves and their families such as their names, where they live, and their interests. Participants are exposed to elements of Deaf culture and the Deaf community.

Course Format:

In addition to classroom attendance you will need to complete a series of homework quizzes online. You must take several in-person exams and a comprehensive final exam. *You will need regular access to a computer and the internet.*

Checklist:

- Read this syllabus thoroughly
- Take the online lesson and fingerspelling quizzes
- Attend the in-class sessions
- Show up* for all of in class Exams and Final (see the schedule for the times and dates)

Curriculum and Course home page & syllabus: www.belindavicars.com

Practice sites:

Place to learn fingerspelling: <http://asl.gs>

Place to improve your ability to read fingerspelling: <http://asl.ms>

Place to improve your ability to recognize numbers: <http://asl.bz>

Additional Resources (Optional):

Any pocket sign language dictionary such as Random House Webster's Pocket American Sign Language Dictionary by Elaine Costello or American Sign Language Concise Dictionary: Revised Edition by Martin L. Sternberg

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Quizzes & Exams		Points	Total
On line	(15) Lesson Review Quizzes	5	75
	(3) Unit Review Quizzes	5	15
	(15) Fingerspelling Review Quizzes	5	75
In class	(1) Culture Exam	35	35
	(2) Receptive Exams	100	200
	(1) Expressive Exam	100	100
	(1) Receptive Final	300	300
			800

Grade Scale: 100-95%=A, 90 = A-, 87=B+, 83=B, 80=B-, 77=C+, 73=C, 70=C-, 67=D+, 63=D, 60=D-, 59=F.

Attendance

I'm more interested in the results of your studies, on how well you are doing in class. Is your signing ability up to par? The best way to improve your signing ability is to practice with someone, to get feedback, and unless you are either related to or are good friends with a Deaf person, and the best place to get that is *in the classroom*.

During each class session, I will discuss a Deaf related topic – all of which is to prepare you for the cultural exam which will be given at the end of the semester. It is up to you to get the notes you need, from your classmates. I do not provide lecture notes.

On days we do not have tests I always aim to make the class fun and engaging through activities and games. The goal of every class session is to provide ways for you to improve your receptive and expressive skills, and to bump your communication skills up a notch. I want you to come class and will enjoy, very much, getting to know you.

I do take role for each and every class. So if you are absent, you will be missed.

However, if for one reason or another you must be absent, no need to email me. No need to make up excuses. I don't need to hear about how your grandma died. Not to be heartless, I rather not guess if you're lying or not. If you want to be an A student, come to class. If you want to be a B or C student, come less often. It's that simple.

However, I'm a stickler about one thing. Attendance is *mandatory* for all in-class exams. The exams are posted in advance. If you absolutely must be absent on the day of an in-class exam, you must present proof of a valid reason for your absence before I will allow you to make up the exam. If you are notorious for being absent, that will have an impact on whether or not you'll be allowed to make up an exam.

On being Tardy on Test Days

Quizzes and exams will start on time, at the beginning of class. The class time is short and thus, I cannot afford wait for any stragglers. So once the door is closed, there will be no admittance. None whatsoever.

Online Quizzes and Deadlines:

The purpose of the online assignments is to prepare you for the in class exams. All of these assignments can be submitted as early as you like, but must be turned in no later than midnight on the day they are due. Any quizzes that are turned late will receive NO points. No makeups for the online quizzes.

Lesson Review Quizzes

There are 15 quizzes, one for each lesson. Each contains a video, accompanied by 50 questions. All are in multiple choice format.

Unit Review Quizzes

There are three unit tests, one for each set of five lessons. Each contains 50 questions, each containing static pictures. All are in multiple choice format.

Fingerspelling Review Quizzes

There are 15 fingerspelling review quizzes. Each contains a video and 10 fingerspelled words. The number of letters in each set increases in ascending order. An answer sheet accompanies the video, which should be copied and placed in a word document (or email). Watch the video, type the answers, and email them to me. Your subject heading should read as such: **FS#1: Last name, First initial.**

In Class Exams:

Culture Quiz

The cultural exam is comprised of two parts. The first part covers common terminology used in the Deaf community, wherein you match the 25 words with their corresponding definitions. The latter portion of the exam will involve a brief essay on a couple different cultural topic. The topics will be covered during the class lectures. A study sheet will be provided.

Receptive Exams 1 & 2

The instructor will sign 10 sentences and 10 vocabulary words and fingerspell 5 words and 5 numbers and students will write down the English translation.

Exam	Points	Total
(10) Sentences*	8	80
(10) Vocabulary	1	10
(5) Fingerspelling	1	5
(5) Numbers	1	5
Total Points		100

*Each word is worth 4 points. If two or more words are wrong, the entire sentence will be marked wrong. If an entire concept is missed, then the entire sentence is marked wrong.

Expressive Exam

The format is similar to that of the receptive exam: 6 sentences; 10 vocabulary; 3 fingerspelling words and 3 numbers. The student will sign the material and the instructor will evaluate. Same point system.

Exam	Points	Total
(6) Sentences*	10	60
(10) Vocabulary	3	30
(3) Fingerspelling	2	6
(4) Numbers	1	4
Total Points		100

*Each word is worth 5 points. If two or more words are wrong, the entire sentence will be marked wrong. If an entire concept is missed, then the entire sentence is marked wrong.

Final Exams:

Receptive Final Exam

The instructor will sign 15 sentences and 10 vocabulary words and fingerspell 5 words and students will write down the English translation.

Exam	Points	Total
(15) Sentences*	15	240
(10) Vocabulary	5	50
(5) Fingerspelling	1	5
(5) Numbers	1	5
Total Points		300

* Each word is worth 8 points. If two or more words are wrong, the entire sentence will be marked wrong. If an entire concept is missed, then the entire sentence is marked wrong.

No-Voice Rule

This is a no voice class. During class time you should keep your voice off and not whisper nor rely on "exaggerated mouthing." If another student voices to you, you should respond as if you couldn't hear them and ask them (by signing) to communicate with you by signing or fingerspelling (or even writing on paper or the board). If after repeated requests, you continue to do so, I'll assign you to sit somewhere else and on rare occasions, if I find that you are, for some reason, unable to adhere to this rule, I'll ask you to leave the classroom and invite you to return to the next class session with A renewed resolve to adhere to my no voice policy.

Open-Communication

You are welcome to ask questions anytime, in or outside of class. If you need further clarification, do not ever hesitate to talk to me after class or to email me during the week.

Commitment

You are expected to invest eight hours a week studying outside the classroom. Come to class prepared. Know the material.

You will be expected to actively participate in class drills and interaction. Passively sitting in your chair, checking your text messages, doodling, or doing something other than conversing in ASL conveys

that you hadn't studied and would rather be somewhere else. Like any conversation, it requires two or more people to participate and like any foreign language, you need to practice in order to retain. Thus, coming to class ill-prepared upsets the balance of the classroom and robs your classmates of the opportunity to practice effectively.

So... come prepared.

Cellphones

Turn off your cell phone and put it away. Absolutely NO TEXTING in class. No checking the time. Nada. Because if I catch you checking your mail, texting, or even having a cell phone in hand or on your desk, I'll stop whatever I'm doing, walk up to you, and take it. I'm that ornery. After class, you can come talk to me about your phone.

Also:

Take your baseball caps off or turn it backwards when entering the classroom. It is difficult to sign effectively with it on. Try signing "father" with it on.

Spit out your gum. Chewing gum is distracting to the reader.

Stow away all non-class related materials (phones, newspapers, etc) once class begins.

Be kind and respectful to others. Be part of the effort in creating a fun and engaging environment, that is ideal for learning.

Make-ups

No make-ups on any of the online review quizzes. Period. *Don't ask.* You can turn them in early, but once you past the deadline, no make ups.

As for the in class exams, these cannot be made up *without* a valid reason and proof of reason for your absence. Such reasons fall in category of calamities such serious illnesses, unavoidable accidents, or death in the family. Traffic delays (or tickets), sickness not requiring a doctor's visit, hangovers, family responsibilities, trips to Hawaii, and so forth, do **NOT** count.

However, if you are required to miss a quiz in order to participate in pre-approved college or work program non-optional events such as being on an athletic team or having to attend a special training session--show me the letter from your coach or employer and then email me for instructions on how to make up the test and/or presentation. In making accommodations for the missed quiz or exam, I reserve the right to give you a different but equivalent test to the one given in class.

Caveat on Make-ups:

Absolutely no make-ups on in-class exams missed due to tardiness, regardless of the reason. The same rule applies for on-line review quizzes. It doesn't matter if you forgot, or if you missed deadlines for some reason or another, because these can be turned in early and do not require you to be physically present in the classroom.

A schedule has been provided. You know in advance, what will be covered in class that day or tests will be given or what quizzes will be due. So, plan your schedule accordingly. If you know you are going to be absent on the day of a test and have a valid reason for doing so, inform me ahead of time.

A word to the wise: It has been my experience that many low performers always have an excuse. Good students head to school early so that traffic doesn't become a problem and allow time to find a parking spot in a crowded lot. They pre-arrange babysitting, back-up transportation, talk to their bosses, and work to avoid conflicts that might interfere with their class schedules, and/or they do well enough on their overall assignments and tests that if they need to, missing a single day, assignment, or test will not hurt their grade.

So, I encourage you to do the things that good students do so that YOU can get the grade good students get. Good students, for example, don't oversleep, get hung over, miss class and then show up later with an elaborate, albeit, entertaining story. And if calamity does happen (which I most sincerely hope it doesn't), please keep me in loop. Email me. I will work with you.

Plagiarism & Cheating

Students are always expected to work independently on graded quizzes and/or assignments unless specifically directed otherwise by the instructor. Assignments turned in late for any reason may receive half or no credit. For information on the College's policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the Schedule of Courses (Legal Notices on Cheating and Plagiarism) and the College Catalog (Policies and Regulations). Penalties for cheating and plagiarism may include receiving an F for a particular assignment, an F for the course, or expulsion from the college.

Students with Disabilities

After themselves to the instructor and the college, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation. For more information, contact the office of Services to Students with Disabilities.

This syllabus and the schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check for any announcements made during your absence.

Pep talk

You can do this. I have near infinite patience. I love teaching and explaining. If you have questions, ask in class or email me with your first and last name and the hour of your class in the subject line and I'll strive to get back to you within 48 hours. If there is something I can do to make the class better for you please suggest it. This class may be one of your more challenging accomplishments but I know if you work hard and put in the time--you will succeed.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date		Assignment
T	25-Jan	Introduction & Lesson 1
TH	27-Jan	Lecture
F	28-Jan	Quiz 1; FS 1
T	1-Feb	Lesson 2 & 3
TH	3-Feb	Lecture
F	4-Feb	Quiz 2 & 3; FS 2 & 3
T	8-Feb	Lesson 4
TH	10-Feb	Lecture
F	11-Feb	Quiz 4; FS 4
T	15-Feb	Lesson 5
TH	17-Feb	Lecture
F	18-Feb	Quiz 5; FS 5 Unit Test 1
T	22-Feb	Lesson 6
TH	24-Feb	Lecture
F	25-Feb	Quiz 6; FS 6
T	1-Mar	Lesson 7
TH	3-Mar	Lecture 8
F	4-Mar	Quiz 7 & 8; FS 7 & 8
T	8-Mar	Lesson 9
TH	10-Mar	Lecture
F	11-Mar	Quiz 9; FS 9
T	15-Mar	Lesson 10
TH	17-Mar	Lecture
F	18-Mar	Quiz 10; FS 10; Unit Test 2

Date		Assignment
T	22-Mar	Receptive Exam
TH	24-Mar	No Class
F	25-Mar	
T	29-Mar	Expressive Exam
TH	31-Mar	Expressive Exam
F	1-Apr	
T	5-Apr	Lesson 11
TH	7-Apr	Lecture
F	8-Apr	Quiz 11; FS 11
T	12-Apr	Lesson 12
TH	14-Apr	Lecture
F	15-Apr	Quiz 12; FS 12
Apr 18-23		SPRING BREAK
T	26-Apr	Lesson 13
TH	28-Apr	Review
F	29-Apr	Quiz 13; FS 13
T	3-May	Lesson 14
TH	5-May	Lecture
F	6-May	Quiz 14; FS 14
T	10-May	Lesson 15
TH	12-May	Lecture
F	13-May	Quiz 15; FS 15, Unit Test 3
T	17-May	Practice Final & Culture Exam
TH	19-May	Finals