COURSE OUTLINE

AMSL 101 – Introduction to American Sign Language

Prepared By: Dr. Diane Muehl, MS-CCC
A. **TITLE:** Introduction to American Sign Language

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** AMSL 101

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 4

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** no

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** 4 lecture hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most frequently used language in the United States after English and Spanish. This course introduces students to ASL: the visual-gestural language of the deaf. It incorporates non-verbal communication techniques: fingerspelling, basic vocabulary, grammar and syntax, and conversational skills. In addition, students gain an understanding of the deaf community, its history, culture, and the issues that impact the deaf community in the 21st century.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** None

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):** By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>a. Distinguish</strong> what s/he visually perceives (visual listening) in comprehending American Sign Language, including fingerspelling</td>
<td>1. Communication</td>
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<td><strong>b. Demonstrate</strong> presentation of information, concepts, and ideas in American Sign Language, including fingerspelling</td>
<td>1. Communication</td>
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<td><strong>c. Demonstrate</strong> basic proficiency in the understanding and use of American Sign Language by engaging in one-to-one conversation and sharing basic information related to specific instructor-led common topics.</td>
<td>1. Communication</td>
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<td><strong>d. Compare and contrast</strong> the linguistic structure of ASL with English</td>
<td>1. Communication</td>
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| e. Identify and describe the historical and contemporary issues that impact Deaf culture and the Deaf community. | 1. Communication  
2. Crit. Thinking |
| f. Demonstrate knowledge of the distinctive features of Deaf culture: beliefs, values, attitudes, history and perspectives found within the Deaf culture. | 2. Crit. Thinking |

K. **TEXTS:**


L. **REFERENCES:** (alternative textbooks, references, and resources for the course)


M. **EQUIPMENT:** technology-enhanced classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

N. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Comprehension Exam tests ability to understand what is being signed
- Narrative Exam tests narration skills
- Expressive Exam tests conversational skills
- Written Exams

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. What is American Sign Language?  
   A. History of ASL  
   B. The Deaf Community
C. The Role of ASL in the Deaf Community

II. Sign Formation
   A. Parts of a Sign
   B. ASL signs are shaped by requirements of the body
   C. Variation of ASL signs
      a. Region
      b. Racial/Ethnic group
      c. Gender
      d. Age
      e. Context

III. ASL Linguistics: An Introduction
    A. Grammar
    B. Syntax and Lexical Variation

IV. History of Deaf Culture
    A. in the United States
    B. Global history

V. The Culture of the Deaf
    A. Beliefs and Values
    B. Behavioral norms
    C. Reliance on technology
    D. Attitudes
    E. Perspectives

VI. Issues Facing the Deaf Community in the 21st Century

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: (If the course has a designated laboratory session this MUST be completed, follow the format for the detailed course outline listed above)