

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

AMSL 101 – INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

CIP Code: 16.1601

**Prepared By: Dr. Diane Muehl, MS-CCC
Revised By: Kirk Jones, PhD December 2020**

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENTS
DECEMBER 2020**

A. **TITLE:** Introduction to American Sign Language

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** AMSL 101

C. **CREDIT HOURS:**

3 Credit Hours

3 Lecture Hours: 3 per week

Course Length: 15 Weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **GER Category:** GER 9

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

G. **COURSE 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.

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

I. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<i>Course Objective</i>	<i>Institutional SLO</i>
a. Distinguish what s/he visually perceives (visual listening) in comprehending American Sign Language, including fingerspelling	1. Communication [O]
b. Demonstrate presentation of information, concepts, and ideas in American Sign Language, including fingerspelling	1. Communication [W]
c. Demonstrate 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.	1. Communication [O]
d. Compare and <i>contrast</i> the linguistic structure of ASL with English	1. Communication [W]
e. Identify and <i>describe</i> the historical and	1. Communication

contemporary issues that impact Deaf culture and the Deaf community.	2. Crit. Thinking
<i>f. Demonstrate</i> knowledge of the distinctive features of Deaf culture: beliefs, values, attitudes, history and perspectives found within the Deaf culture.	2. Crit. Thinking

KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: No

K. TEXTS:

Sabo, J. (2011). *American sign language: Level one*. New York: McGraw Hill.

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

Baker-Shenk, C.& Cokley, D. (1991), *American sign language (The green books)*. Washington DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Humphries, T., Padden, C., Hills, R., Lott, P., & Renner, D. (2004.) *Learning American sign language: Levels I & II—Beginning & Intermediate, 2nd ed.* Boston MA: Pearson Publishing. (includes text and DVD)

Lane, H., Hoffmeister, R. & Bahan, B. (1996). *A journey into the deaf world*. San Diego, CA: DawnSignPress.

Newell, W., Sanders, C., Holcomb, B., Holcomb, S., Caccamise, F. & Peterson, R. (2010). *ASL at work: Teacher manual*. San Diego, CA: DawnSignPress.

Peters, C. (2013). *Deaf American literature: From carnival to the canon*. Washington DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Sternberg, M. (1998). *American sign language dictionary unabridged*. New York: Harper Perennial.

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

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

O. **SUGGESTED 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:** None