

# Virginia Western Community College

## ASL 101

### American Sign Language I

#### Prerequisites

None

#### Course Description

Introduces the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL) used by the Deaf Community, including basic vocabulary, syntax, fingerspelling, and grammatical non-manual signals. Focuses on communicative competence. Develops gestural skills as a foundation for ASL enhancement. Introduces cultural knowledge and increases understanding of the Deaf Community. Part I of II.

This course introduces the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL) and is appropriate for students who have no knowledge of ASL or minimal signing skills. In addition to vocabulary we will study grammatical features, non-manual signals, ASL syntax, fingerspelling, and incorporation of gestural skills. We will explore Deaf culture and learn appropriate social norms for interacting in the Deaf community.

**Semester Credits: 3**

**Lecture Hours: 3-4**

**Studio Hours:**

#### Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Canvas

#### **Textbook:**

Smith, Cheri; Lentz, Ella Mae; Mikos, Ken. *Signing Naturally*: Dawn Sign Press. ISBN: 978-1-581-21127-6

#### **Other Required Materials:**

None

## Course Outcomes

**At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- receptively understand conversational phrases and short narratives.
- expressively communicate using ASL structure & conceptual signs.
- formulate statements/assertions/negations using non-manuals.
- ask yes/no and wh- questions using grammatical facial expressions.
- fingerspell in appropriate context using crisp hand shapes and pace.
- have a basic introductory conversation with a member of the Deaf community using culturally appropriate social norms.

## Topical Description

UNIT 1, GETTING TO KNOW YOU: Students will introduce themselves to others and discern visual differences.

1	Language Functions: asking for/giving name, confirming correct information/positive head nod, correcting information/negative headshake with WAVE-NO, determining visual similarities and differences
2	Grammar: visual orientation, spatial referencing, dominant/non-dominant hand, yes/no questions, wh-questions WHAT/WHERE/WHO, personal and possessive pronouns, directional verb SAME-AS, DIFFERENT, cardinal numbers 1-10; asking for repetition
3	Introduction of ASL (extension material below)
4	Introduction to Rochester Method (extension material below)

UNIT 2, EXCHANGING PERSONAL INFORMATION: Students will relate, question, and receive basic information about each other including hearing status, where they learn, and languages they learn/know.

1	Language Functions: asking if deaf or hearing, asking where learning ASL, conversational regulator OH-I-SEE, directional verb SAME-AS
2	Grammar: compounds with agent marker, yes/no questions, wh-questions, assertions, negations, noun/verb pairs (repeat/single, verbs of process-repeated), symmetrical/non-symmetrical signs, parameters of a sign, glossing, manual alphabet- spelling names and double letters

## Notes to Instructors

[ADA Statement \(PDF\)](#)

[Title IX Statement \(PDF\)](#)