American Sign Language
School of Linguistics and Language Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Fall 2010
ASLA1010

Instructor: Jon Kidd
Email (for student use) Jonkidd@connect.carleton.ca
220 Paterson Hall
Office hours: TBA

Fall Term
Section A Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:35-4:25 PA 201
Section B Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:35-11:25 PA 201
Section C Mondays & Wednesdays 9:35-11:25 PA 201
Section D Mondays & Wednesdays 9:35-11:25 SA516

Course Description:
For students with little or no knowledge of ASL. Students will obtain basic communicative competence in American Sign Language and a good knowledge of the Linguistic features of the language, particularly the Grammar and Structure. Students will also gain a good knowledge of the cultural aspect of the Deaf community.

Classroom Work:
Classes are generally of two halves, first the introductory half and then the practical half. Two class aids from the ASLA4900 course will assist students during the practical half of each class. Students will be expected to take part in these practical activities as well as some activities outside of class time. Peer interaction is expected, especially during the practical components of each class. Teamwork is expected of each student both in class and in preparation for the video assignments.

Attendance:
Attendance is compulsory. Absences and cumulative late arrivals will reduce the in-class participation mark each term. A student must attend a minimum 80% of classes per term in order to qualify for a passing grade for that term. Failure to meet this requirement will automatically result in a failing grade.

Practical Activities:
Students will be informed of various practical activities available to them. This has shown to make a positive difference in a student’s ability to retain their knowledge of the language. Students are expected to maintain a journal of their practical activities both on and off campus.
Texts:
Required - none

Evaluation:
3 Video assignments (expressive) 30%
Mid-Term Exam (receptive and expressive) 30%
Participation 10%
Final Video Assignment (receptive and expressive) 30%

Evaluation of Video Assignments: Video assignments are graded on a ten point scale bases on the following format:
Required elements 5
Free elements 5

General Information for Students
In this course the focus and emphasis is on the natural features of languages as they are used in Sign Languages. Students are instructed in the use of a different modality that use the eyes and manual signals instead of the ears and mouth. While most students are able to acquire skills in this area, there are a few who simply cannot pick up and/or master the various nuances of clear sign production.

The signing portion of this course is instructed in an Immersion setting and a no voice rule will be in effect. Students are required to respect the Cultural requirements and in the case of voicing will be warned and subsequently asked to leave. These cultural behaviors are also expected to be upheld during practical activities either on or off campus.

For the purpose of practice and evaluations, students are expected to select and work with a partner. These partnerships can be expected to rotate throughout the duration of the course.

Class Aides chosen from the fourth year eligible students are appointed to assist with the classes. These Aides primarily assist with the practical portion of classes but are also available to help students during study group sessions. Classes generally follow a format that entails a 50% instructional and 50% practical setup.

Students are to be aware of the fact that the receptive testing is a difficult procedure to duplicate therefore to refrain from missing scheduled tests. Make up tests are generally not given.

Students wishing to gain admission to ASL2010 are required to achieve a minimum grade of C in this course.
Students with disabilities

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the Centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that you receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 16, 2009 for December examinations. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation