

Northern Marianas College
CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Fall 2008

Type of Action

- New
- X Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

Course Title Beginning Sign Language I

Course Alpha and Number SL 101

Reason for initiating, modifying, or canceling course, or other pertinent information

This course guide has been modified to reflect the addition of assessment measures.

<i>Thomas Loftin</i>	<i>6/24/08</i>
Proposer	Date
<i>Mark E. Haug</i>	<i>6/24/08</i>
Department Chair	Date
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>7/15/08</i>
English and Format Reviewer	Date
<i>Debra T. Cuber</i>	<i>7/15/08</i>
Dean, Academic & Student Programs & Services	Date

Course: SL 101 Beginning Sign Language I

1. Department

Languages and Humanities

2. Purpose

This course is designed to provide a foundation in American Sign Language (ASL) and an introduction to Deaf culture to students considering a career as a Sign Language Interpreter. Anyone interested in communicating with Deaf people on a personal, social, or professional level will also benefit from this class.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required:

Humphries, Tom, Carol Padden and Terrence J. O'Rourke. A Basic Course in American Sign Language. 2nd ed. Silver Spring, MD: T.J. Publishers, 2000. Readability Level 9.

B. Contact Hours

1. Lecture: 4 per week / 60 per semester
2. Lab
3. Other

C. Credits

1. Number: 4
2. Type: Regular degree units

D. Catalogue Course Description

This initial American Sign Language course is designed to teach students beginning conversational skills in the language of Deaf adults in the United States, Canada, and U.S. territories, including the CNMI. Students will learn over 500 signs used for both expressive and receptive vocabulary; the manual alphabet and numbers; beginning grammar and syntax rules for American Sign Language; and an introduction to Deaf culture. The focus of the course is to provide a fundamental ability to communicate with Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults, children, and other signers. (English Placement EN 083/084)

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

Completion of this course fulfils the one-semester language requirement for both the A.A degree in Liberal Arts and the Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

F. Course Activities and Design

This course incorporates short lecture, demonstration, discussions, guest signers, reading assignments, a term paper, viewing of videos, small group

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activities, student projects and presentations, written assignments, and a midterm and final exam.

**4. Course Prerequisite (s); Concurrent Course Enrollment;
Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)**

EN 83/84 or permission of instructor.

5. Estimated Cost of Course

To the Student: Tuition for a 4-credit course and textbook

To the College: Salary of instructor

Instructional resources required for this course include chalk, overhead projector, video tapes, VCR, TV, markers, flip charts, children's toys and books for teaching vocabulary and classifiers, educational materials, chalkboard, and photocopying.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

1.0 Basic Sign Language Production

- 1.1 Handscape
- 1.2 Location
- 1.3 Movement
- 1.4 Holds

2.0 Basic Sentence Structure

- 2.1 Word order
- 2.2 Tenses
- 2.3 Questions
 - 2.3.1 Yes/No
 - 2.3.2 Wh
- 2.4 Exclamations
- 2.5 Orders

3.0 Types of Signs

- 3.1 Pronouns
- 3.2 Nouns
- 3.3 Verbs
- 3.4 Adjectives
- 3.5 Adverbs
- 3.6 Conjunctions

4.0 Introductory Vocabulary

- 4.1 Family
- 4.2 Time
- 4.3 School
- 4.4 Animals
- 4.5 People
- 4.6 Food
- 4.7 In the home
- 4.8 Descriptive adjectives
- 4.9 Introductions

5.0 Use of Facial Grammar and Expression for Enhancement of Communication with Deaf People

- 5.1 Body language
- 5.2 Gestures
- 5.3 Facial grammar
- 5.4 Facial expression
- 5.5 Stress
- 5.6 Modification of signs for meaning

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6.0 History of American Sign Language

6.1 Key people/places in history

6.2 Key people/places today

7.0 Beginning Level Cultural Information

7.1 Answers to frequently asked questions

7.2 A look at assistive technology

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8.0 Instructional Goals

The course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The basic grammar and syntax of American Sign Language (ASL);
- 2.0 Fingerspelling and its appropriate use in ASL;
- 3.0 Basic sentence structure;
- 4.0 Basic word order and parts of speech;
- 5.0 Basic sign language vocabulary for having simple conversations;
- 6.0 Aspects of non-verbal communication;
- 7.0 Cross-cultural factors for first interactions with Deaf people; and
- 8.0 People and places in the modern Deaf world.

9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Demonstrate the use of appropriate grammar and syntax in ASL;
- 2.0 Use fingerspelling appropriately;
- 3.0 Construct and understand basic sentences in ASL;
- 4.0 Converse using appropriate basic ASL word order with varying parts of speech;
- 5.0 Conduct simple conversations with other students and the instructor in ASL;
- 6.0 Use aspects of non-verbal communication appropriately;
- 7.0 Demonstrate appropriate cultural norms for beginning situations; and
- 8.0 Identify key people and places in the 21st Century Deaf world.

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10. Assessment Measures

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Demonstrated use of sign language during class activities;
- 2.0 Written quizzes;
- 3.0 Homework assignments;
- 4.0 A mid-term examination;
- 5.0 A term paper and presentation;
- 6.0 Performance in group work;
- 7.0 A special project; and
- 8.0 A final exam.