

GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 120 – AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I

<u>1. Course Number</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Semester Units</u>	<u>Hours</u>
ASL 120	American Sign Language I	4	4 hours lecture

2. Course Prerequisites

None.

3. Catalog Description

Introduction to American Sign Language as it is used within the Deaf culture. Instruction in the basic structure of the language and development of its use. Skill development practice. Introduction to the history of Deaf culture and the language. Introduction to the Deaf perspective on the establishment of Deaf communities and ASL.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

- a. Demonstrate one's understanding of the early historical development of Deaf communities through recognition of Deaf and hearing leaders.
- b. Identify the historical significance of Gallaudet University and its political influence in America.
- c. Recognize and discuss the importance of technology (teletypewriters (TTY), state relay systems, video relay services) to the Deaf community.
- d. Contrast Deaf culture/community values with hearing culture values.
- e. Demonstrate one's understanding for the Deaf perspective on living in a hearing world.
- f. Demonstrate one's understanding of the role of sign language in Deaf humor and literature.
- g. Examine basic linguistic features of ASL as a language different from English.
- h. Produce and demonstrate the ability to communicate sign language in a conversational form at a basic, introductory level.
- i. Construct and compose the basic grammar structure of sentences in ASL to include the use of facial expression and non-manual behaviors.
- j. Accurately formulate and express the vocabulary of ASL beyond three word phrases.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom with TV monitors for videotapes.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None.

7. Course Content

- a. Instruction in culture related topics:
 - (1) History of Deaf communities.
 - (2) Laurent Clerc and the first Deaf school in America.
 - (3) How Deaf people express culture and language in humor and literature.
 - (4) Preservation of sign language through storytelling and theatre performances.
 - (5) Analysis of the dynamics between the Deaf and hearing cultures.
 - (6) Introduction to the Deaf perspective on oppression and living in a hearing world.

7. Course Content continued

- b. Instruction in ASL and grammar structures:
 - (1) Introduction to fingerspelling, numbers, and when to use them in conversations.
 - (2) Instruction in using the characteristics of ASL: palm orientation, movement, handshape, and location of hands to each other and the body.
 - (3) Instruction in the appropriate use of vocabulary, time periods, and tenses.
 - (4) Instruction in when and how to use facial expression and non-manual behaviors in sentences.
 - (5) Instruction in grammatical structures and syntax of ASL as it applies to initiating conversations.
- c. Skill development production:
 - (1) Introducing oneself.
 - (2) Exchanging personal information.
 - (3) Talking about surroundings on campus.
 - (4) Telling where one lives.
 - (5) Talking about family.
 - (6) Telling about activities.
 - (7) Correct production of fingerspelling and numbers.

8. Method of Instruction

- a. Lecture.
- b. Demonstration.
- c. Expression and dialogue interaction.
- d. Hands-on experience.
- e. Videotape instruction.
- f. Role plays.
- g. Guest speakers.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly.

- a. Participation of in-class assignments.
- b. Written reports and reflection papers.
- c. Sign Language skill production.
- d. Quizzes, exams, including final which could be one or a combination of the following: receptive (instructor signs and student writes), expressive (student signs and instructor evaluates), and/or written portion to evaluate knowledge of Deaf culture and ASL grammar.
- e. Expressive and receptive skills evaluation.

10. Outside Class Assignments

- a. Reaction papers re: guest speakers.
- b. Participation in Deaf culture activities.
- c. Tour of resources within the Deaf community.
- d. Viewing of videotapes in the Learning Resources Center.
- e. Hands-on exercises for skill development.

11. Texts

- a. Required Text(s):
 - (1) Smith, Cheryl, Ella Mae Lentz and Ken Mikos. Signing Naturally. Vista-American Sign Language Series. San Diego, CA: Dawn Sign Press, 1993.
 - (2) Bragg, Lois. Deaf World: An Historical Reader and Primary Sourcebook. Parts I and II. New York, NY: New York University Press, 2001.
- b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:
None.