**State College Florida**

**Spring 2015**

**Beginning ASL-** **Four hours credit**

**Tuesday-Thursday 3:00-4:30 PM**

Instructor: Mike Tansey E-Mail: tanseym@sfc.edu

**Course Description:**

The students will learn to understand the structure of American Sign Language by studying the linguistics of ASL.. They will be exposed to deaf culture. The course will emphasize hands on class experience that the students will be able to communicate using only ASL. In this course, they will gain not only an understanding of how to express themselves in ASL, but will develop their receptive skills as well. In addition, the students will be exposed to deaf culture and develop a better understanding of the deaf community.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Master and read finger spelled words.

2. Learn the importance of facial expressions to the meaning of a word.

3. Grasp the basic concepts of ASL grammar.

4. Understand and be more aware of, and be more sensitive to the values of deaf culture.

5. To carry on simple conversations and be able to understand what is said in ASL.

**COURSE TEXTS and MATERIALS:**

Signing Naturally

**GRADING POLICY**

Final grades are based on the point system: 1000 points (Perfect score)

1200-1092=A
1091-884=B
883-627=C
626-382=D
381 and below=F

Four Receptive tests- 400 Points

Three narratives- 300 points

4 Fingerspelling quizzes 200 points (50 points per quiz)

ASL event Journal - 100 points (10 points per visit)

ASL Project 200 points

Total score- 1200 points

This course does not use “+”/”-“grading. Thus, there are only five letter grades possible: A, B, C, D, or F.

**Attendance**

Having a near perfect attendance does helps you to succeed in the course of ASL. The more you are out, the harder to keep it up. Since we are functioning in the real world I am aware that 100% attendance is rare therefore you are permitted three unexcused absences. On your fourth absence, 15 points will be taken off from your final grade. On your fifth absence and beyond, you will lose 20 points for each additional absence. Please have a note if you have serious illness or situation in your family that prevents you coming to the class. Otherwise, I can't excuse you if you don't have any proof to why you were out.

***IMPORTANT!***

***When absent, it is the student’s responsibility to contact other classmates to obtain notes, materials and assignments missed during the absence****.*

**Tests**

I will signed it to you and you will write it down what I just had signed. Part of it will have multiple choices and short answered questions. If you are out during the day when test is being given, you will only be allowed to make up test once through make up on the last day of class. You will make up the test by taking the comprehensive test which means from Unit 10 to 16. Only fingerspelling quizzes can be make up as well the narrative and dialogue; however, do not abused this!!!!!!!

**RECORDING RESTRICTIONS POLICY**

A student shall not, without the faculty member’s express authorization, make or receive any recording, including but not limited to audio and video recordings of any class, co-curricular meeting, organizational meeting or meeting with a faculty member. Further, the student does not have permission to post class lectures or course lectures on the web.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY**

 Students are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner and will face appropriate consequences for misconducts: stealing materials from the ASL lab; cheating on tests and on videotape projects, plagiarizing reports, and etc. Cheating consists of the following: talking, signing, looking at another student’s paper, using the book or electronic device **during a test or quiz**; and/or helping others do video project work they are required to do alone. Student’s caught cheating will receive a zero for that test/quiz and/or project. More than one incident of cheating will result in dismissal from the class.

**Blackboard Policy**:

Check your grade from time to time to make sure it is accurate. Please keep all your tests. If the instructor graded you incorrectly, please advise him immediately. DO NOT DELAY. It is your responsibility to check your grade at least once a week. If you have lost your work, tests, or quizzes, the instructor cannot change your grade for lack of proof there was an error.

**Leaving class policy**

Leaving class early without the instructor's permission will cost you 20 points from the final grade unless you bring a note with a satisfactory explanation. The only valid reasons for early departure are illness or a doctor’s appointment. Advise the instructor before class if you have to leave early for these reasons in order to avoid class disruption. Leaving class early without permission, the student will lose 20 points from the final grade.

**Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones, pagers and any other electronic devices must always be turned off during all classes..

**Turning in your assignments**

Do try to hand your assignment on time. If you are late with the assignment, you can turn in the next class meeting but will take off five points. You have one week to make up and if you don't turn in within a week after the due date; you will get a zero. I do not want your assignment to be handwritten as it should be typed. If any of the assignments is handwritten, you will get a zero. Always make sure your printer is working and I do accept your work early. The sooner you turn in your assignment, the less stress you have at the end of the semester.

**Texting**

If I see a student constantly texting on his/her cell/pager during class, the student will lose five points from their final grade each time they do it. If the communication is very important, please leave the classroom, but do not do this often. It makes the instructor thinks the student is not taking the class seriously.

**No Voice Policy**

You will adhere to a ”**no voice policy”** in classes when you are practicing signing with the instructor. This is required for effective visual acquisition of the ASL vocabulary, ASL sentence structures, and non-manual signals. Talking is not permitted when the instructor is teaching the class. Talking is permitted when you are practicing with each other. If a student is being disrespectful to cease talking, they will lose 15 points to their final grade.

**Receptive Tests:**

The four receptive tests will be based on the information learned from the units in the textbook. The tests will reflect your understanding of ASL grammar and ASL sentence structure, vocabulary, finger spelling and numbers, glossing, and deaf culture. **Special note: Please never ask the instructor to slow down the signing for you on the tests. This is disruptive and unfair to other students.**

**Narratives and Dialogues**

You will be assigned a narrative which is a solo project. You may be assign to do a dialogue which you do with a classmate. With a classmate, you are grade separately.

**INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE TO ALL STUDENTS**

In this class, you will develop (or enhance) your signing skills by experiencing the physical use of signs and finger spelling. There will be a great deal of practice, interaction and participation in all class sessions. Your success will depend on your constant attention and participation in class.

From the first day, you need to establish credibility. If you are constantly absent and late, it makes you appear unreliable. If something serious happens and you have good credibility, I am more inclined to give you a break. If you are the kind of person who is absent and late often, it makes me believe you are not taking the course seriously even if something serious occurs. This also applies when you skip the class following completion of a chapter.

Please be aware that learning any language is a CUMULATIVE process. This means regular attendance in class, memorization of the ASL vocabulary, practice and review of the vocabulary and lesson material both in and outside of class, and full participation in all ASL activities in class. August 20-First day of class and go over syllabus.