

MLSL101 - American Sign Language I Syllabus

Massasoit Community College

Course Information

MLSL101.W01 [CRN: 25829] – 3 Credits

Required Materials

- **Signing Naturally, Student Workbook Units 1 – 6 (BRAND NEW – REQUIRED)**

****Important Notes – See Below****

Authors: Smith, Lentz, Mikos | Year: 2008 | Publisher: Dawn Sign Press

ISBN: 978-1-58121-210-5

- **A Sign of Respect: Strategies for Effective Deaf/Hearing Interactions, 2nd Edition**

Authors: Holcomb, T.K., Mindess A. | Year: 2016 | Publisher: Treehouse Video LLC

ISBN: 978-1-932501-54-4 | Two Parts Online Version

- **GoReact Access Code (Online Version)**

Author: GoReact | Publisher: BYU Academic Publishing

ISBN: 978-1-61165-11-2

Important Notes about Signing Naturally, Student Workbook Units 1 – 6

- **You must purchase the brand-new book. It is required.** When you purchase the brand-new book, it will come with the DVDs and a website/online access code. You will have one-year free subscription to the website.
- Handouts from instructor and/or Canvas.

Course Description

This course initiates the development of the ability to sign and understand American Sign Language. Students learn the fundamentals of grammar, basic vocabulary, and correct signing. Cultural aspects of the Deaf community are discussed. This is a beginning-level course designed for students with no previous experience or with no more than one year of study in American Sign Language at the high school level.

Five Course Objectives:

There are five course objectives for MLSL 101. Read below.

Course Objective One:

Students will sustain conversations and/or present information in American Sign Language:

- Students will expand on all grammatical skills and vocabulary obtained in ASL 101, including fingerspelling and numbering.
- Students will use ASL conventions appropriate for the communication goal in a variety of tenses (inform, present, question, narrate, confirm, command, state, negate, etc.)
- Students will employ and comprehend syntactic features unique to visual languages, such as: listing, inflecting/spatial verbs, and number incorporation.
- Students will produce and comprehend multi-sentence utterances including those that may require a change in non-manual, grammatical facial markers or sequencing

techniques.

Course Objective Two:

Students will create, perform, and digitally record original narratives, as well as re-tellings of narrative models:

- Students will apply vocabulary, grammatical skills, and visual-spatial foundation.
- Students will utilize story cohesion techniques including a variety of transitions.
- Students will apply visually based narrative skills such as role shifting, entrances and exits, and engaging the audience.
- Students will use hands (shapes, positions, and motions) in combination with facial/body expressions (visual-gestural skills) to effectively describe appearance, parts of a whole, size and shape, proximity, actions and manner within an ASL utterance.

Course Objective Three:

Students will examine the self-perceptions and identity formation of culturally Deaf people:

- Students will present the “Deaf people as a cultural linguistic minority” perspective.
- Students will reflect on their observations at a Deaf event from a cultural point of reference/view.
- Students will analyze and reflect on their past attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs towards Deaf people.

Course Objective Four:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ASL syntax:

- Students will read and reflect on grammatical features of ASL.
- Students will identify examples and patterns of grammatical features of ASL.
- Students will discuss examples of grammatical features of ASL.
- Students will sign examples of grammatical features of ASL.

Course Objective Five:

Students will practice successful ASL active-learning behaviors:

- Students will reflect on their use of ASL study skills and the language beyond the classroom.
- Students will review their saved, digital signed utterances.
- Students will engage in live communication exchanges with teacher and peers.
- Students will utilize ASL learning resources at MCC and online.
- Students will immerse themselves in at least two non-classroom ASL environments.

Anticipated Outcomes:

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

1. Develop a vocabulary of approximately 500 signs during the semester.
2. Evaluate and use correct basic ASL sentences construction.
3. Create grammatically correct basic sentences using appropriate body and facial expressions.
4. Demonstrate the use of fingerspelling to express oneself.
5. Demonstrate the ability to comprehend fingerspelling used by another person.
6. Demonstrate comprehension of signs being used by another person.

7. Demonstrate the ability to participate in conversation with deaf adults using receptive and expressive sign language skills.
8. Demonstrate the ability to translate signed ASL sentences to both proper verbal and written English form.
9. Demonstrate the correct use of numbers in ASL.
10. Demonstrate the correct use of basic manual and facial grammar.
11. Identify issues related to deafness and Deaf Culture.
12. Demonstrate the understanding of the basic features, mores, and values of Deaf Culture.
13. Use appropriate posture, gestures, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness to effectively communicate information.
14. Discuss how communities, countries, or cultures differ in their values, politics, communication styles, beliefs, and practices.
15. Complete work accurately, with attention to detail.

Teaching Procedures

American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual language and requires a lot of “face-to-face” interactions online. This course includes individual work; digital lectures; receptive and expressive assignments; reading about Deaf culture & history; and tests from each unit. This course contains no audio lectures – only visual lectures. You are expected to receive a lot of videos feedbacks from your professor with your “minor” signing mistakes feedbacks. All “feedbacks” videos are presented and shown in ASL along with comments in English. All the PowerPoint lectures with YouTube videos; assignments; quizzes; tests and miscellaneous documents will be posted in Canvas and this ASL online course will be structured in “Modules.” It is your responsibility to check Canvas frequently to ensure you are caught up.

Course Requirements

• Assignments: 20%

All homework assignments are *due on every Sundays by 11:59pm*. If the students have any questions related to the assignments, please contact your instructor immediately and ahead of time. Each assignment will be posted in *Canvas* weekly. You will be expected to complete them prior to the due date. Failure to submit work on time will negatively impact the homework grades. Please submit all your assignments in Canvas. Also, you are strongly encouraged to do the *Signing Naturally Student Workbook* assignments as they are important practice.

• Expressive Video Assignments (GoReact): 20%

There will be several expressive video assignments this semester. You will be asked to videotape yourself doing a variety of ASL expressive and/or language skill building. All your expressive videos will not be shared with your classmates. Your professor will be the only person watching your videos and providing some feedback. You must upload all your videos in GoReact. The GoReact is a wonderful feature where you upload your expressive videos, and you will be able to see my feedbacks in signing ASL and typing in English. Details will be announced in class; on PowerPoint and/or in Canvas.

• Comprehension Tests: 20%

The comprehension tests are the evaluation of your receptive and comprehension skills. There will be total of three tests from each unit. Each test will cover from Unit 1 – 3 from the *Signing Naturally Book* and PowerPoint/YouTube lectures. These tests may and/or will include the portion of fingerspelling, vocabulary words, questions, and sentences. The comprehension tests CANNOT be made up.

NOTE: The make-up test is permitted only in the case of serious illness or problems (ie. hospitalization, a death in the family), which must be documented. In case of a scheduling conflict (ie. academic conference, athlete's sports tournament), the student is responsible for arranging with the instructor to take the test prior to the test date.

• **Student Journal: 20%**

Students are to complete and keep a journal totaling twelve (12) hours of exposure to Deaf Community. The journal (a brief description of each activity, i.e., the date and venue you attended, what you observed, learned, questions you had, etc.) must be typed, double spaced and with size 12 font. The journal and activity log are to be submitted online and due by the end of the semester. "Exposures" can include the following below:

1. Watching a movie or YouTube related to deafness with volume off and closed-captioning on.
2. Reading books related to deafness or Deaf Culture or written by Deaf author
3. Interviewing with any Deaf person/friends/relatives via video conference like Shields - MLSL 101 - Page 5
Zoom, FaceTime, Skype.
4. Observing certified professional sign language interpreters.
5. You must have prior approval of the instructor for any other activities.

• **Final Presentation: 20%**

An oral presentation evaluating the student's expressive ASL skills, including vocabulary, grammar, numbers, and syntax will be presented in GoReact. The allotted presentation time will be a minimum of four minutes to a maximum of 6 minutes. The final presentation dates will be held at the end of the semester. Students will sign up for a presentation date during our class session sometime this semester. ***The Rubric for the class presentation will be available in Canvas under "Assignments".***

Grade Distribution (Percentage System)

The course requirements will be graded and weighed as follows....

- 20% = Assignments
- 20% = Expressive Video Assignments (GoReact)
- 20% = Comprehension Tests
- 20% = Student Journal
- 20% = Final Presentation
- 100% = TOTAL

Letter Grade

The final grade will be determined by the number of points accumulated, according to the following scale.

Grade As Grade Bs Grade Cs Grade Ds Grade Fs

A = 94 – 100% B+ = 87 – 89% C+ = 77 – 79% D+ = 67 – 69% F = 59 – 0%

A- = 90 – 93% B = 84 – 86% C = 74 – 76% D = 64 – 66%

B- = 80 – 83% C- = 70 – 73% D- = 60 – 63%

Assignment Due Dates

All your assignments are due every Sundays by 11:59pm and must be submitted in Canvas, no exception. The assignments will be announced on the calendar, on PowerPoint and/or in Canvas. It is your responsibility to maintain your assignment due dates. If you turn in your assignments late, there will be a half points deduction.

Cheating / Plagiarism

Students are expected to do their own work in their own words for all aspect of this course. Any submitted work that gives the appearance of cut/paste from the internet, copying another student’s work, sharing answers, etc. will be issued a zero.

Canvas Features

This semester *Canvas* will be used to complete assignments and will be the major way of disseminating course information. Information on assignments, grades, due dates, changes to the schedule and other announcements will be posted there. You are responsible for checking *Canvas* regularly.

MCC Email and Course Communications

You are responsible for all communications sent via Canvas and to your MCC email account. Make sure that email preference is set so you can receive email communication from the instructor via *Canvas*. You are required to use your MCC provided email account for all email communications at the College.

ASL Communication Mode

The eyes, not the ears, are used in receiving information via American Sign Language. Since learning a new language requires using that language, ***spoken English will be allowed only during designated “voice” times*** such during video conference meetings if needed. Students are **not** allowed to use spoken English during online class sessions. Students are required to participate and interact by signing, using gestures/mime, or writing questions to me. However, using as much ASL as possible is strongly encouraged.

Right to Change to the Syllabus

I reserve the right to change the contents of this syllabus and schedules due to unforeseen circumstances. You will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through Canvas announcement and/or through MCC email.