

California State University, Fresno

Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies

CDDS 91
American Sign Language 1

CDDS 91 – AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I (3 units)

Catalog Description: Introduction to the appreciation, comprehension, and analysis of a language developed in a visual/gestural mode. American Sign Language, including its cultural/historical background, the role it plays in the Deaf community, and its growing influence in American Mainstream Society.

Purpose: To introduce students to a visual-gestural language (ASL) used by the Deaf community in the United States and Canada. It will introduce students to the culture of the Deaf community and its appropriate cultural behaviors. Students need to be aware that some culturally accepted behaviors may be offensive. Students will also be engaging in conversation using ASL at a level expected for beginning signers.

General Education Requirements: This course meets General Education requirements under Division 7 – Languages for students with catalogs 1998-1999 or earlier.

What You Will Need to Purchase for this Course: The following textbooks are required for the course, they can be purchased at Kennel Bookstore on campus.

Chambers, D. P. (1998). Communicating in sign: Creative ways to learn American Sign Language. Simon & Schuster Publishing.

Ogden, P. W. (1992). Chelsea: The story of a signal dog. Little, Brown and Co.

Smith, C., Lentz, E., & Mikos, K. (2008). Signing naturally: Student workbook units 1-6. San Diego, California: Dawn Sign Press.

Course Objectives and Outcomes:

Using American Sign Language, students will learn to:

- *use visual skills for communication purposes
- *produce non-manual grammatical signs
- *make appropriate introductions
- *engage in brief question and answer dialogue
- *identify and produce finger spelling and number signs to 100
- *exchange personal information

*discuss various activities and time concepts

Subject to Change:

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you were absent.

Class Activities/Requirements:

1. Students are required to attend all classes since active participation is VITAL to the learning process and acquisition of the basic principles of American Sign Language.
2. Students who already know some sign language are not to tutor other students by teaching them any signs other than those taught in class. This is very disruptive to the new students learning process.
3. In order to facilitate the learning of ASL, students are NOT permitted to speak in the classroom.
4. Students are not allowed to ask questions of a classmate during the class when they do not understand what the instructor is teaching. It is every student's responsibility to ask the instructor for clarification of what he/she does not understand.
5. Students are not expected to understand every sign the first time they see it, but they are encouraged to keep trying by observing and participating as much as possible.
6. Making mistakes is an expected part of the learning process. Therefore, please do not feel afraid of making errors ☺
7. Remember, ASL and English are two separate languages. The sign vocabulary will be taught in context since there are many signs in ASL that do not have English equivalents. The most important thing you can do is relax. Watch and practice, practice, practice! ☺
8. Wait until the instructor tells you when and which unit to read and view in both SIGNING NATURALLY: STUDENT WORKBOOK and the DVD. The timing of the material is crucial to the success of each learning task. Premature reading and viewing may frustrate your attempt to master ASL.
9. Students must have and use a Fresno State email account. The university provides a free email account for all enrolled students. They can sign-up for an email account at:
<https://googleapps.fresnostate.edu/signup/>

A Fresno State email account will provide you with:

- Convenient Access
- login to my.csufresno.edu
- Access to Web-based services
- Checking E-mail from any browser

- Ability to check other E-mail accounts

The department and faculty teaching this course will be using only the Fresno State email address in all academic communications with students. It is your responsibility to check their Fresno State email account regularly, several times a day if necessary.

If the email messages are not deleted periodically, the allocated memory for the account will be filled up and all further messages will be bounced back and will not be delivered to your account. So you will have to clean-up your account regularly. BE SURE to check your Blackboard account and have the correct CSU, Fresno email address listed.

10. The final grade is based on the following:

Five Unit Exams (One dropped-40 points each)	160
Five Pop Quizzes (One dropped-10 points each)	40
Two Deaf Events Attendance	50
Blackboard Posts	50
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	<u>100</u>
TOTAL	500

Exam dates will always be announced at the class prior to the exam. The five exams will consist of receptive skills in ASL as well as essay and or multiple choice / true false questions. The five pop quizzes will consist of essay and or multiple choice / true false questions from your assigned readings and textbook and/or receptive skills. The Blackboard posts require your ongoing participation (quality not quantity). Your lowest exam and pop quiz will automatically be dropped. There will be absolutely NO make up pop quizzes or exams given. The Midterm exam date will be announced in class. If time permits, the Expressive Final exam will take place _____. The Written Final exam will be on _____.

You are responsible for all assigned readings outlined in the tentative schedule throughout the semester. Information from the assigned readings will be on unit exams, pop quizzes, midterm, and the written final.

Blackboard posts must be one to two paragraphs in length. You are expected to respond to each discussion topic as presented throughout the semester. There will be 5 different topics. Your instructor will put in one

topic for each month starting in August and ending in December. You are responsible to check your Blackboard posts monthly. Your Blackboard post points will depend on your writing style, grammar, spelling, and content and the number of posts you respond to. You are expected to participate in the Bb discussion fully. All Blackboard posts are due by _____.

You will be required to attend 2 Deaf Events. Deaf events will vary depending on the week and or month. Be sure to participate in these events early in the semester whenever possible! Visit Fresno Deaf Events at: www.fresnodeafevents.com or visit the ASL club board posted outside of the Department office (PHS 252). Also check the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center website at <http://www.dhhsc.org/>.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students With Disabilities: It is important that students with disabilities be aware that they are fully responsible for identifying themselves to the instructor and the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD) in regard to making reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation within the course. Please contact immediately the SSD office on your campus.

Disruptive Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner showing the utmost courtesy and respect to the instructor and other students in the class. A student who is unable to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner will be asked to remove themselves from the classroom.

Electronic Devices: In order to not disrupt the class, please turn off all cellular phones, pagers, or any other electronic devices that ring or might otherwise disturb the classroom environment before each class begins. I understand that there may be situations in which, for example, you must remain available to a caregiver. However, the use of these devices is forbidden within the classroom for the duration of the class without having secured the consent of the instructor prior to the class.

Student Athletes: If you are involved in athletics on campus you **MUST** give your instructor a letter from the athletic office or coach listing which class meetings will be missed. The letter should include the dates of classes you will miss due to your athletic program.

Cheating and Plagiarism: It is important to know the university policy on cheating and plagiarism when you take exams, write reaction/research papers, and sign the attendance sheets.

http://www.csufresno.edu/ClassSchedule/current/policy/conduct/cheating_plagiarism.shtml

Cheating: “Cheating is the practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. It is the intent of this definition that the term cheating not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means.”

Plagiarism: “Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating that consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of another by representing the material so used, as one’s own work.”

In a research paper, an author summarizes and critically evaluates published empirical research on a given topic. Such a paper involves rephrasing a vast amount of published information. In the past and especially in this class, students who have forgotten the APA style of giving credit to the authors of published article and books have been open to the charge of plagiaristic writing. Take note of the CSUF policy on cheating and plagiarism, which makes no reference to an intent to plagiarize (see the appropriate section in the CSUF catalog). See the APA Manual and the Coursebook on Scientific and Professional Writing on quotations, citations, and giving credit to other authors and sources. In the 5th edition of the APA Manual, see the indexed entry, plagiarism for specific information. A lack of knowledge on how to express information gathered from published sources may result in plagiaristic writing. A student who unknowingly indulges in plagiaristic writing does not know how to give credit to published sources and how to paraphrase other authors. In cases of plagiarism, the University policy will be followed.

Also note that:

- A lack of knowledge about what plagiarism is or is not is not an excuse under the University Policy.
- This and other instructors in the Department will not excuse plagiaristic writing when a student pleads that she or he did not know what constitutes plagiarism. Your attention is hereby drawn to this issue. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiaristic writing, you need to find out by reading the APA Manual, reviewing A Course book on Scientific and Professional Writing, 3rd edition (Hegde, 2003), and then by consulting with your instructors if you are still unclear.
- You must be prepared to submit copies or the originals of all sources (article, books, book chapters) that you cite in your paper for verification of original writing and accuracy of quotations.
- The University Catalog specifies that plagiaristic writing may result in dismissal, suspension, probation, or other sanctions along with a lower grade given regardless of the performance on the tests and examinations.
- The Department policy on plagiaristic writing, in addition to the University policy, is as follows: (a) any graduate student who plagiarizes will automatically receive a grade of C or lower for the course, and (b) plagiaristic writing will automatically result in a D or an F for the paper, depending on the extent of plagiaristic writing; this too, will negatively affect the grade.

Honor Code: "Members of the CSU Fresno academic community adhere to principles of academic integrity and mutual respect while engaged in university work and related activities." You should:

- a) understand or seek clarification about expectations for academic integrity in this course (including no cheating, plagiarism and inappropriate collaboration)
- b) neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on examinations or other course work that is used by the instructor as the basis of grading.
- c) take responsibility to monitor academic dishonesty in any form and to report it to the instructor or other appropriate official for action.

Drops for “Serious and Compelling” Reasons: It is important to know that “failing or performing poorly in a class is not an acceptable serious and compelling reason within the university policy, not is dissatisfaction with the subject matter, class, or instructor.”

http://www.csufresno.edu/ClassSchedule/04spring/policy/adddrop_policy.html

For other important information for the fall semester see page one in the Schedule of Courses or visit the website at:

<http://www.csufresno.edu/ClassSchedule/current/calendars/semester.shtml>

Computers: At California State University, Fresno, computers and communications links to remote resources are recognized as being integral to the education and research experience. Every student is required to have his/her own computer or have other personal access to a workstation (including a modem and a printer) with all the recommended software. The minimum and recommended standards for the workstations and software, which may vary by academic major, are updated periodically and are available from Information Technology Services (<http://www.csufresno.edu/ITS/>) or the University Bookstore. In the curriculum and class assignments, students are presumed to have 24-hour access to a computer workstation and the necessary communication links to the University's information resources. There are several computer labs on campus. Students will be expected to use Blackboard, a powerful multimedia tool.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1	Introduction to Course Week Unit 1 – “Introducing Oneself” Read Ch. 1 – Communication in Sign
Week 2	Unit 1 Class Activities Read Ch. 2 – Communicating in Sign
Week 3	Unit 1 Class Activities Read Chapters 1 – 2 Chelsea
Week 4	Review for Exam #1 (Units 1) Exam #1 (Units 1) Read Ch. 3 - 4 – Chelsea
Week 5	Unit 2 – “Exchanging Personal Information” Unit 2 Class Activities Read Ch. 6 – Communicating in Sign
Week 6	Unit 2 Class Activities Review for Exam #2 Read Ch. 3 – Communicating in Sign Exam #2 (Unit 2)
Week 7	Unit 3 – “Discussing Living Situations” Read Ch. 4 & 9 – Communication in Sign

Week 8	Unit 3 Class Activities Read Ch. 5 – Communicating in Sign Review for Exam #3 Exam #3 (Unit 3)
Week 9	Midterm Review (Units 1, 2 & 3) MIDTERM EXAM (Units 1, 2 & 3)
Week 10	Unit 4 – “Talking About Family” Read Ch. 7 – Communicating in Sign Read Ch. 5 & 6 – Chelsea
Week 11	Unit 4 Class Activities Review for Exam # 4 Exam # 4 (Unit 4)
Week 12	Unit 5 – “Telling About Activities” Read Ch. 8 – Communicating in Sign Read Ch. 7 – Chelsea
Week 13	Unit 5 Class Activities Review for Exam #5
Week 14	Exam # 5 (Unit 5) Signed Final Exam Review
Week 15	Signed Final Exam Review Signed Final Exam
Week 16	Signed Final Exam
Week 17	FINAL EXAM

*This is a tentative schedule, it may be changed according to the progress of the class

**For specific University deadlines and dates, please see page one in the schedule of courses.

Remember to relax, enjoy and have a great semester!! ☺