

Salisbury University
Department of Modern Foreign Languages
MDFL 111: Elementary Sign Language I (American Sign Language I)

Instructor: Ms. Rita Campbell
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Office Hours: By appointment

Required Text/DVD:

Signing Naturally – Units 1 - 6. Student Workbook and DVD by Smith, Lentz and Mikos, 2008. DawnSign Press.

☆NOTE: The instructor will give handouts, also.

Course Description:

Beginning study of American Sign Language including the culture of deaf people. Three hours per week. Meets General Education IB.

This course introduces students to the study of American Sign Language (ASL), the natural language used by Deaf people in North America. The course will focus on the unique and challenging grammatical and linguistic structures of ASL, its history, and its struggle for recognition as a language. Students will develop both expressive and receptive skills of ASL from Units 1 – 6.

MDFL 111 is an "enhanced" course; that is, a course that might traditionally be offered for 3 credit hours, but which, within the context of both the newly reformed Modern Languages program and the Fulton School's overall curriculum reform initiative, is being offered here in a 4-credit context. The main purpose of the Fulton reform and the courses in it is to engage students more in the individual courses they take and, as a result, provide students with a deeper—and often more active—learning experience and encounter with the subject at hand. All "enhanced," 4-credit courses in the Fulton School will require significantly more—and sometimes different—work than they might (or used to) require as 3-credit courses. For more information on the Fulton reform and "enhanced" courses, and what both mean to you, as a student, please visit the Fulton reform student website at <http://www.salisbury.edu/fulton/curref-students.html>.

Objective:

It is the goal of this class to help students to understand the unique structure of American Sign Language; to achieve expressive/receptive communication skills and to become familiar with the various perspectives on deafness (i.e., cultural, educational, linguistic and political).

Procedure:

In addition to the normal class time, students will be expected to complete 2 Deaf Community event reports. Socializing with Deaf people outside of class will be of great benefit. The course instructor will inform students of opportunities to participate in the deaf community.

Attendance:

The class meets two (2) times a week and students will be expected to attend and participate in each lesson; however, recognizing that there will be occasional conflicts, up to two (2) missed classes will be allowed. The students will have exercises to complete during class time on a regular basis. (See 'Point System' on page 3).

ASL Only Policy:

You may not use your voice to ask for assistance or to communicate in class at any time, for any reason. ASL is a visual language. The success of your learning experiences relies on your willingness to immerse yourself in Deaf culture and language.

Make-up Midterm and Final Exams: Midterm and Final exams missed (with very good reasons, along with a doctor's note or death of family member with proof only) are allowed to be made up within one (1) week either before or after the scheduled dates.

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given on scheduled days during the semester. Any quiz missed is not allowed to be made up. This will be excused with the doctor's note or death of family member (with proof only).

Homework:

- 1.) The instructor will give worksheets to students for homework. The students are required to watch the Signing Naturally – Level One: DVD before answering questions.
- 2.) The students will attend 2 Deaf Community Events and they must get involved in interacting with Deaf people. They will type a 1-2-page report of each event and must give to the instructor on next class day.

☆**NOTE:** All work must be given to the instructor on the assigned due date.

Grading:

- 25% Midterm Exam
- 25% Final Exam
- 20% Quizzes (6)
- 10% Homework (Signing Naturally DVD)
- 10% 2 Deaf Community Events & Reports (5% each)
- 5% Class Participation (Activities)
- 5% Attendance

Point System:

- 100 = (0 – 2 missed days)
- 90 = (3 – 4 missed days)
- 80 = (5 – 6 missed days)
- 70 = (7 – 8 missed days)
- 60 = (9 – 10 missed days)
- 0 = (11 – up missed days)