

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number: ASL 101**

**Credits: 4**

**Course Title:** American Sign Language I

**Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)**

Introduces the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL) used by the Deaf Community, including basic vocabulary, syntax, fingerspelling, and grammatical non-manual signals. Focuses on communicative competence. Develops gestural skills as a foundation for ASL enhancement. Introduces cultural knowledge and increases understanding of the Deaf Community. The first course in a 6-semester sequence. Lecture 4 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

To introduce students to both the practical elements of producing and comprehending American Sign Language (ASL) in common discourse and the Deaf people who use this language.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites** (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

None.

**Course Objectives** (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. demonstrate ability to use space and non-manuals for comparison and contrast.
- b. describe the difference in production between a "yes/no" and a "wh" question, and demonstrate ability to ask and respond to each question form.
- c. provide appropriate back-channel feedback and ask clarification questions
- d. describe where they live and how (route by which) they come to school.
- e. provide basic information about immediate family, including age-order ranking.
- f. appropriately establish tense and talk about common activities.
- g. utilize negation via non-manual (head movement), at least three different lexical signs, and a combination of both manual and non-manual elements.
- h. communicate future goals in relation to work, family and self.
- i. describe three elements of what it means to identify yourself as being Deaf (not deaf).

**Major Topics to be Included**

- a. Appropriate methods of introducing self to others.
- b. Exchanging personal information.
- c. Ability to discuss physical surroundings.
- d. Telling where you live and how you travel.
- e. Talking about your family.
- f. Telling about activities.
- g. Negotiating an environment using ASL.
- h. An introduction to deaf culture and community.

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year):** April 10, 2009