

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

Course Prefix and Number: ASL 220

Credits: 3

Course Title: Comparative Linguistics: ASL and English

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

Describes spoken English and ASL (American Sign Language) on five levels: phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactic, and discourse. Compares and contrasts the two languages on all five levels using real-world examples. Documents similarities between signed languages and spoken languages in general. Describes the major linguistic components and processes of English and ASL. Introduces basic theories regarding ASL structure. Emphasizes ASL's status as a natural language by comparing and contrasting similarities and unique differences between the two languages. Prerequisites: ASL 201 and ENG 111. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To introduce intermediate-level ASL students to the similarities between signed languages and spoken languages in general by describing the major linguistic components and processes of English and ASL.

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

ASL 201 and ENG 111

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

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

- a. identify, describe and provide examples of sequential, phonologic contrast in English and ASL
- b. identify, describe and provide examples of free and bound morphemes in English and ASL
- c. describe the lexicon, including lexical building processes
- d. demonstrate the Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structures of English and ASL
- e. describe the relationship between the "movement" of SVO structures in ASL and non-manual signals (i.e., eyebrow movement, head tilt, and body lean)
- f. elaborate on the similarities and differences of discourse elements in English and ASL
- g. describe a sign using Stokoe notation
- h. describe a sign using the Movement-Hold theory

Major Topics to be Included

- a. phonology
- b. morphology
- c. lexicon
- d. syntax
- e. discourse

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