

University of Washington
ASL 134 – Intensive First Year American Sign Language



Kristi Winter, Instructor

Office Hour: By appointment or meet in classroom right after class

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Course Title/Number:
Intensive First Year American Sign Language/134A 10176

15 Credits

ASL 134 Class websites:
<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1204844>

ASL Class Resources Website:
<https://sites.google.com/a/uw.edu/uw-asl/home>

Lecture Hours:
MTWTh 9:10 AM- 1:30 PM

Classroom: DEN 113

Welcome to ASL 134 class!

Course Description:

ASL 134 is an intensive course in beginning American Sign Language (ASL) which is equivalent to three quarters of ASL. In ASL 134, students will be introduced to the basic grammatical structure of the language, begin developing receptive and expressive signing skills and be introduced to Deaf culture. During this intensive course, students will master more basic grammatical structures of the language, continue developing receptive and expressive signing skills, increase comprehension of signed narratives, and knowledge and experiences of Deaf culture.

Course Goals:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to incorporate basic ASL grammar and vocabulary for rudimentary communications, including:

- Introducing oneself
- exchanging personal information
- discussing living situations
- talking about family
- talking about everyday activities
- storytelling and fables
- describing and identifying people and things
- making requests and asking for advice
- using agreement verbs
- greeting and leave-takings
- narrating stories
- discussing neighborhoods
- describing restaurants
- suggesting a place to eat
- keeping others informed
- using facial expressions

Prerequisites for admission to course: None

Required Materials:

1. ***Signing Naturally Units 1-6 Student Workbook***, by Cheri Smith, Ella Mae Lentz and Ken Mikos, 2008. Dawn Sign Press. ISBN: 978-1-58121-210-5. Student textbook and videotext (DVD). Available from the UW Bookstore or online vendors such as Amazon. (Check your workbook to make sure it includes 2 DVDs)
2. ***Signing Naturally Units 7-12 Student Workbook***, by Cheri Smith, Ella Mae Lentz and Ken Mikos, 2014. Dawn Sign Press. ISBN: 978-1-58121-221-1. Student textbook and videotext (DVD). Available from the UW Bookstore or online vendors such as Amazon. (Check your workbook to make sure it includes one DVD)
3. **Sign Production Assignments (SPA)** (SPA #1, #2 and #3). Computer and webcam for three video sign production assignments. VCR tapes cannot be accepted. You can use the Soloist video recording software program at the Language Learning Center, Denny Hall. Or, you can use popular video recording programs such as QuickTime, Windows Media Player, or AVI, which you can download to PC or Mac for free, or go to the computer lab in Odegaard Undergraduate Library. I do not accept video recording formats that are not familiar and not compatibles for Mac. For recording your signing skills (up to 2-3 minutes), upload your video file on UW's Canvas. If you do not have a computer and/or webcam, you may use computers and webcams at the computer labs on UW campus. I will not accept nor grade your video clips if they are too dark for evaluating your signing skills. Be sure there is sufficient lighting while recording your signing.

Course Websites:

ASL 134 class website:

<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1204844>

ASL Program Resources Website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/uw.edu/uw-asl/home>

Class handouts and reading lists may be posted on the course UW website. You should learn how to check this site, at least weekly. Course changes and news will be distributed to students through email.

Homework Assignments (check for due dates in the course schedule):

You will have homework after every class, anywhere from 1 to 3 hours of work. It is important that you do the homework because the next class builds on the lesson covered.

1. ***Signing Naturally Units 1-6 and Units 7-12 Student Workbooks***. You will begin assigned work from your *Signing Naturally* textbooks and videotexts, Units 1-6 and Units 7-9 & 12 will be covered in class. 99% of the *Signing Naturally*

assignments are signed in ASL and are essential to the next class day's dialogue activities. Some answer keys are given in the back of your workbook, and some will be given in the next class day. Students will do some written homework assignments during the quarter, which will be graded. There will be some quizzes, receptive tests, sign production assignments and a final written test on grammar and culture, based on materials in textbook and lectures.

2. **Journals.** There will be three Journal Activities. Students will be assigned topics related to Deaf culture and ASL to do their critical analysis and reflection. Your instructor will provide the topics. The journal must be at least 2 pages, at least 500 words, typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. There will be in-class group discussions on journals on the due dates, when you bring in a printed copy of your journal for group sharing, reading and discussing. Some of the journal topics will be part of the final exam, you will need to be aware of the information related to these topics.
3. **Miscellaneous Assignments.** Students may do some other written assignments during the quarter. Check the course schedule for information and due dates.
4. **Deaf Community Report.** You are required to attend ONE approved deaf event sponsored by the Deaf Community, either on or off campus during the quarter. For instances: a visiting at a deaf classroom at a public school, a visiting to a residential school for the deaf in Vancouver, Washington, attending a Deaf social or cultural events, a Deaf political meeting, an ASL performance, silent games, or a Deaf-related conference/workshop. Attending a sign language interpreted event, watching "Switched at Birth" or other Deaf-related videos, vlogs, movies, involvement in an activity by the ASL Club, or going out with a deaf friend/family member, and or co-workers do not count, even though I strongly encourage students to do these for their own benefit.

The purpose of the Deaf activity/event is to observe, and possible interact with Deaf people and to learn more about Deaf culture and their language. Your experience in attending or being involved in the Deaf community is invaluable to your understanding and learning of Deaf people, and their culture, language and history. For more information about the Deaf activities/events, you can look up the Deaf Community activities listed in the ASL Program website, through the Canvas, or email sent by your instructor. Check the websites at:

www.deafspotlight.com

<http://psadeaf.org>

<http://www.northwestrad.org>

<http://seattledbcs.org>

for any announcements they may have posted. You are to turn in a 2-page reaction paper that addresses the following: (1) name of the event; (2) number of people; (3) get a selfie while you are at the event for proof; (4) description of what took place; (5) discussion of your experience, your observances of cultural activities, differences, language use, social patterns, new signs learned, etc. (6) what specific skills would have made the experiences more meaningful for you.

After attending the event, you are to write a paper. The paper must be two full pages (at least 500 words), typed, double-spaced, and using a 12-point font. See the course schedule for paper due dates (hard copy; no emails).

Examinations:

1. **Receptive Quizzes.** You will have quizzes based on your receptive skills and your knowledge of grammar and culture from the workbook (Check for the quiz dates in the course schedule).
2. **Comprehensive Exam I.** This is a comprehension exam covering Unit 1-3. The exam tests your ability to understand what is being signed to you, and your knowledge of grammar and culture from the workbook and lecture notes.
3. **Comprehensive Exam II.** This is a comprehension exam covering Unit 4-6. The exam tests your ability to understand what is being signed to you, and your knowledge of grammar and culture from the workbook and lecture notes.
4. **Sign Production Assignments.** You will produce three video assignments during this quarter. Guidelines for sign production assignments will be provided and you will create a story in ASL using all the vocabulary and grammar you learned in these units. These assignments test your signing skills. The video assignments will be viewed and critiqued by the instructor. You will be graded based on how well you incorporate essential language elements, form your signs correctly, use a good range of vocabulary and able to get the meaning across. Also, students will view your stories and do video peer evaluations.
5. **Final Exam.** The final exam will be a written test based on your receptive skills and your knowledge of language and culture notes presented in the *Signing Naturally* Textbooks (Units 7-9), journal activities and lecture notes.

Classroom Environment, Expectations and Participation:

ASL is an interactive language. Our class is conducted in ASL from the very first day. You are immersed in the language for approximately 16 hours a week to maximize your language learning. The instructor will use gestures, signs, drawings and act out situations to get the point across and your job is to keep trying. You can't master it by practicing by yourself or missing daily class activities. Class participation is very important for success in any second language class. A considerable amount of material not present in the textbook or handouts will be discussed and practiced during classes.

Regular class participation is crucial because it will greatly facilitate your learning and comprehension of ASL. The nature of this course requires that you participate and on time for each class meeting. Consistent participation and timely arrival will influence your learning and your participation grade, which is 20% of your course grade. Class involvement is very important for success in any foreign language class, as a considerable amount of materials will be discussed and practiced during class that is not present in the

textbook or handouts. Missed participation can be made up on a limited basis and only with the agreement of the instructor. One Deaf Community report can be done to replace 4 participation points. (One class day = 4 participation points, up to a maximum of 8 participation points).

This summer course is unique with over 4 hours each class day. It is not the same as other quarters; fall, winter and spring quarters. If you miss participating on a class day, which equal missing approximately a week of participating, you will slow down the class pace and other students' learning process when they have to review missed class days' information with you.

Retake tests or taking an exam early are not allowed, and late assignments will **NOT** be accepted. Students should notify the instructor of emergency situations, either in person or email. If a student must miss a class and wishes to collect handouts, the student is expected to make copies from other students' materials and borrow notes for missed lectures. Students are responsible for knowing the material and for turning in any assignments for that day. I recommend that you exchange phone numbers with several classmates so that you can keep up. Please do not email me for what you missed. If you did, I will not reply it. It is impossible for me to explain my lectures for every student who misses class.

Read the syllabus and course schedule, check the class website or the discussion board before emailing inquiries to me on issues that cannot be resolved by them.

UW Athletes must inform me on the first week of class about any quizzes/tests that will be missed due to road trips or participation on a UW team. It is the athletes' responsibility to contact me to schedule make up quizzes/tests.

Practicing with your study partners is the best way to do your studying and homework. I encourage you to develop study groups of at least two students so you can get used to varying signing styles and levels.

Communication Policy:

A no speaking policy will be strictly enforced in class. ASL, a visual language, requires visual concentration to successfully master. We insist on maintaining a signing environment at all times in the classroom for two reasons; One, it is considered very rude and insulting to speak in front of a Deaf person without signing and not make communication between you and other persons accessible, because everything accessible to hearing people should also be accessible to Deaf people in the room. This behavior is known as *audism*. Since a good number of your teachers will be Deaf and your goal is to get to know Deaf people in the community. It is imperative that you develop the habit of signing when Deaf people are present. It is an act of including Deaf persons as equals. Secondly, this is an immersion class, which means only the target language is used. Using only ASL helps you to develop both your comprehension skills and your expressive skills quickly and effectively. Talking disrupts the process and delays your language development. If a fellow student asks you for help, feel free to help by using signs you have learned or by writing back and forth. In this way, I can see what is being said and can join in to help, if needed be. This class will be conducted entirely in ASL. It

is very disrespectful for you choose to speak vocally in the classroom and it will not be tolerated at all. Any audible noise can severely distract a student's efforts to master ASL, including whispering, covering the mouth, English mouthing and speaking. If you must communicate with anyone in the class, write notes or sign! Students who continue to violate the no voice policy after two warnings will be asked to leave class for the day. Read "Maintaining Clear Sightlines" and "Using English and Voice" on page ix in the Signing Naturally Units 1-6 workbook to reacquaint yourself with appropriate behaviors for ASL classrooms.

If you want to meet with your instructor in her office and need the assistance of an interpreter for efficient communication, you should make an appointment with your instructor, and arrangements for an interpreter will be made.

Email Policy:

When you send an email message to the instructor, you should type up on SUBJECT in your email like this:

Subject: Doe, John, ASL 102 Section B

Test Taking Policy:

You have to be in the class on time to be able to do the whole test. The tests and final exam must be taken on the scheduled dates. You must have a valid reason for missing any test day and there is one-week from the test date time limit for taking make-up tests. It can be scheduled only for students with documentation of an excuse. See the University Policy Directory on examination. I will return quizzes/tests a week after every student completed it. All quizzes, tests and the final exam must be completed with a #2 lead pencil and answers must be legible.

Class Etiquette:

Students must arrive on time and stay until class is dismissed and in general to help maintain an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and is respectful of others. If you must arrive late or leave early, please inform instructor before class begins. Also, during lectures, activities such as talking with a classmate, reading the paper, texting, eating, sleeping, leaving early or coming in late are considered disrespectful and disruptions. Anyone who disrupts this class or prevents others from learning will be asked to leave or stop their behavior. These disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated in class. Please respect your classmates and your professor.

PLEASE use the restroom **before** class or **during** class breaks.

Cell Phones:

During class cell phones ***must be completely off and kept out of sight***, because sometimes students use them to cheat on exams. Texting during class is not allowed, because it is distracting to class, plus it is very disrespectful to the teachers, and will result in immediate dismissal from class. If there is an emergency, please do inform your teacher before class that you will leave the classroom before using your cell phone.

Homework:

You are expected to complete assignments and come prepared. Your homework will be checked several times during the quarter, and if you have not completed the work, your participation points will be deducted two points for each missed homework assignment. Do your homework.

Typed Assignments and Reports Format:

All typed assignments and reports must be typed in a size 12 font, double spaced, with one-inch margins, and stapled. It must also be written in college level English with appropriate grammar, punctuation and spelling. Your name, class name, teacher's name and date must be on the top right hand corner of each page.

Computer or printer problems will not be accepted as excuses for late work; if your printer doesn't work, email your assignment to yourself as an attachment and then print from one of the computer labs. Leave yourself enough time to recover from printer problems. Back up your work.

Academic Integrity:

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Guidelines and definitions of different kinds of cheating are described in the following 'Academic Honesty: Cheating and Plagiarism' document. <http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>

This website also contains links to the University of Washington Student Conduct Codes (<http://www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html>). You should read these documents if you have not read them.

It is your responsibility to understand the University's expectations of academic conduct. You can find in the back of your UW Student Planner or online (see the links above).

Course Grade Breakdown:

Receptive Skills:		10%
Quizzes	10%	
Expressive Skills:		30%
Sign Production Assignments (SPA)		
SPA #1 (Language Learned)	10%	
SPA #2 (The Gallaudet and Clerc Story)	10%	
SPA #3 (The Tailor: Your Version)	10%	
Knowledge & Cultural Experience:		10%
Journal and other assignments:	5%	
Deaf Community Event Report:	5%	
Exams:		30%
Comprehension Exam 1 (Units 1-3)	10%	
Comprehension Exam 2 (Units 4-6)	10%	
Culture and Language Final Exam (Units 7-9)	10%	
Class Participation & Homework Assignments		20%
Participation points (140 pts total)		
4 points per day for participation in daily classroom activities		
2 points per day for ½ of participation in daily classroom activities, and/or missed homework assignment		
0 point for no participation		
Total:		100%

Course Grade Weight

Your grades will be assigned on the basis of your scores in the above five categories. I will have the right to set up a cut-off point, which is a certain overall score that must be reached to earn a passing grade. I will also have the right to make some minor adjustments to your final grades based on your strong improvement of your performance, class participation, etc.

The following UW grading scale will be used
www.washington.edu/students/gencat/front/Grading_Sys.html

(Percent = Grade)

95% and up = 4.0	88% = 3.3	81% = 2.6	74% = 1.9	67% = 1.2
94% = 3.9	87% = 3.2	80% = 2.5	73% = 1.8	66% = 1.1
93% = 3.8	86% = 3.1	79% = 2.4	72% = 1.7	65% = 1.0
92% = 3.7	85% = 3.0	78% = 2.3	71% = 1.6	64% = 0.9
91% = 3.6	84% = 2.9	77% = 2.2	70% = 1.5	63% = 0.8
90% = 3.5	83% = 2.8	76% = 2.1	69% = 1.4	60-62% = 0.7
89% = 3.4	82% = 2.7	75% = 2.0	68% = 1.3	59% or less = 0.0

Access and Accommodations:

Your experience in this class is important to us, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you experience barriers based on disability, please seek a meeting with Disability Resources for Students (DRS) to discuss and address them. If you have already established accommodations with DRS, please communicate your approved accommodations to your instructor at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

Disability Resources for Students offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary or permanent disability that requires accommodations (this can include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu

The information in this syllabus is subject to change

Updated on June 13, 2018