

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

ASL-101 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I

I. Basic Course Information

A. ASL 101- Introduction to American Sign Language I

B. Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Fall 2021

D. Effective Term: Fall 2022

E. Communication & Languages

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 4

Lecture: 3

Laboratory: 1

Out of class student work per week: 6.5

H. Prerequisite: None

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Bick Treut, bick.treut@raritanval.edu

Patrice Marks, patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: None. Designed exclusively for students with no previous exposure to American Sign Language, this course develops basic signing skills and provides an introduction to Deaf culture and communities. The course is conducted in American Sign Language. Native users of ASL and students with successful completion of two or more years of American Sign Language (within the past 5 years) cannot receive credit for this course. The laboratory component provides self-paced skill development with individualized support by the instructor.

III. Statement of Course Need

1. This course provides an introduction to American Sign Language, the recognized sign language of the deaf community in the United States of America. With this course, students have the opportunity to begin their study of American Sign Language as well as partially fulfill the language requirement in programs with a language requirement.
2. The laboratory component provides self-paced skill development with individualized support by the instructor.
3. This course can transfer as the first semester of an introductory American Sign Language sequence.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

1. Free Elective
2. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/World Language and Global & Cultural Awareness
3. This course meets a program requirement for Liberal Arts, AA, Social Sciences, AA, Communication Studies, AA, English, AA, and is a program requirement option in Mathematics, AS.
4. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Language-related:

1. Sentence Types:
 - i. Yes/No Questions
 - ii. Wh Questions
 - iii. Statements
 - iv. Negation
2. Topicalization
3. Non-Manual Markers (NMM)
4. Fingerspelling
5. Lexicalized fingerspelling
6. Directional Verbs
7. Numbers:
 - i. Cardinal
 - ii. Ordinal
 - iii. Numbers 1-99; 100s; 1,000s; 1,000,000s
8. Present and Non-Present Referents

9. Noun-Verb Pairs
 10. Classifiers
 11. Pronouns
 12. Contrastive Structure
 13. Rhetorical Questions
 14. Tense Indicators
- B. Tasks
1. Introducing oneself
 2. Exchanging personal information
 3. Discussing Living Situations
 4. Expressing likes/dislikes and opinions
 5. Discussing schedules and activities in the past, present, and future
 6. Discussing future plans and obligations
 7. Telling time and using other numbers accurately in ASL
 8. Exchanging information about family, friends, and relationships
 9. Describing oneself and others
 10. Making commands and requests politely
- C. Vocabulary
1. Useful signs to know
 2. Family and relationships
 3. Descriptions and classifiers
 4. Everyday Activities
 5. Tense indicators
 6. Core vocabulary of around 700 signs
- D. Deaf Culture
1. Learn culturally appropriate behavior:
 - i. Voice-off environment
 - ii. Getting someone's attention
 2. Become aware of visual environment considerations:
 - i. Sightlines
 - ii. Eye contact
 - iii. Negotiating a signing environment
 3. Be introduced to the history of American Sign Language
 4. Discuss and explore the Deaf culture of the United States of America

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Sign at the novice mid-level in ASL (GE-1)

2. Describe people and things accurately (GE-1)
3. Ask and answer novice mid-level questions with grammatical accuracy. (GE-1)
4. Explain cultural patterns within the American Deaf community (GE-8)
5. Introduce themselves and exchange personal information in limited social conversations using fingerspelling, basic vocabulary, and spatial agreement (GE-NJ 1)

B. Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Ask and answer basic questions in ASL with grammatical accuracy
2. Describe people and clothing using present and non-present referents
3. Introduce themselves and exchange personal information including likes, dislikes, and opinions in limited social conversations using fingerspelling, basic vocabulary, and spatial agreement
4. Explain cultural patterns within the American Deaf community
5. Use culturally appropriate behavior when interacting with members of the Deaf community

C. Assessment Instruments

1. Small group work and class discussions
2. Dialogues
3. Lectures
4. Receptive assessments
 - i. Checkpoints
 - ii. Exams
 - iii. Fingerspelling
5. Productive assessments
 - i. Conversation
 - ii. Video recordings
 - iii. Exams
6. Reading discussions and papers

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Participation
- B. Homework
- C. Video Assignments
- D. Checkpoints (quizzes)
- E. Exams
- F. Reading Reflections

G. Cultural Reflection Papers

Primary forms, methods, and modes of instruction:

- A. Lectures and class discussions conducted in American Sign Language
- B. Small group work
- C. Dialogues and conversation practice
- D. Culturally authentic materials
- E. Student discussion and presentation
- F. Laboratory

VIII. Texts and Materials

- 1. Humphries, T., and C. Padden. (2004). *Learning American Sign Language: Levels I & II, beginning and intermediate* (2nd ed.). Pearson: Boston.
- 2. Primary sources
- 3. Online resources
- 4. Video resources

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- 1. Seating that enables open sightlines
- 2. Ability to film and submit video recordings
- 3. Computer access

X. Honors Options: Not Available