American Sign Language 100 (ASL I) Syllabus
Palomar College

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Office hours:
   Escondido Center       Tue./Thur.   9:00-10:00 AM
   San Marcos Campus     Thursday     3:00-4:30 PM

Required texts* and materials:
1. *Learning American Sign Language* by Humphries and Padden. Note: Although there is a video to accompany the text that you may choose to watch in the ASL/Interpreting Lab (in H-223 on the San Marcos campus) or in the library (on reserve at the Escondido campus), you are not required to purchase it for this class.

2. *Signing Naturally Student Workbook, Units 1-6* with DVD by Smith, Mikos and Lentz. If you purchase a used copy, be sure it has the DVD in the back of the book.

3. A way to record yourself signing a 3-minute project at the end of the semester (e.g., phone with enough memory, iPad or personal video camera).

Recommended materials: Many students find it helpful to make flash cards using vocabulary in your textbooks. You must memorize vocabulary as it is taught. As is true for any language class, each class builds on vocabulary and grammatical structures learned in previous classes.

Course description and objectives: This course is an introduction to American Sign Language, the language used by Deaf people in the U.S. and most of Canada. Students will develop practical skills and knowledge for successful interactions within the Deaf community. Since a language cannot be separated from its culture, you will learn some information on Deaf culture (including attention getting strategies, politically correct terminology, and behavioral norms/values). You will also learn beginning ASL vocabulary and grammar (including use of space, non-manual signals, and classifiers).

Student learning outcome: Students will be able to describe their immediate family units including parents, years married, enumeration of siblings in pecking order, names and ages. Palomar College student learning outcomes are online at http://www2.palomar.edu/slo/.

Attendance and participation: No make ups are given unless prior arrangements have been approved by the instructor. If you miss a class, *please check with a classmate* to learn what you missed and what will be due at the following class meeting. After 3 absences, your grade will be lowered one full level. After the 4th absence you will either be dropped from the course or you will receive a failing grade. You are responsible for officially withdrawing from or dropping the class. College deadlines and holidays are at http://www.palomar.edu/admissions/Calendars.htm.

Course methodology: Students will learn through a variety of in-class collaborative activities, discussions, lectures, videotapes, homework, and out-of-class practice. Learning a new language requires using that language, so *there will be NO SPOKEN ENGLISH USED IN CLASS!* You may mime or gesture your questions to me, come see me during office hours, or e-mail me. If you need a review of certain signs, come to class early and write the words on the board.
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Grades will be based on the following:

Homework
- Signing Naturally workbook assignments 6 @ 10 points each = 60 points
- Deaf community experience papers 2 @ 15 points each = 30 points

ASL Lab time (2 points per hour/max 15 hours) 15 hours = 30 points
Quizzes (every two weeks) 4 (25-50 pts. each) = 170 points
Midterm project (videotaped) 1 @ 35 points = 35 points
Final project (videotaped) 1 @ 70 points = 70 points
Midterm exam 1 @ 100 points = 100 points
Final exam 1 @ 100 points = 100 points

Total possible = 595 points

Grading scale:
A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%  D = 60-69%
C = 70-79%  F = less than 60%

ASL/Interpreting Lab:
You must spend a total of 15 hours in our ASL Lab in room H-223 on the San Marcos campus. You may study with a partner, work on vocabulary, get help from a Lab Technician, watch ASL videos, practice fingerspelling, or just have conversations using sign language. Leave your voices at the door—speaking is not allowed in the lab. For hours of operation and location information, see http://www.palomar.edu/speech_and_asl/asllab/default.htm.

Projects: Midterm and final projects will be videotaped presentations of each student signing in front of the class. Projects should be well-prepared, rehearsed, and nearly memorized. For the final project, you must bring a camera or phone to record your presentation.

Research/cultural immersion papers: You must attend two different Deaf community events (at least one event must be medium to large and have 20 or more Deaf or hard of hearing people in attendance) and write a 1½-2 page, double-spaced paper about each experience. Observe and analyze interactions and cultural phenomena among Deaf people as they compare to your own experiences in similar settings. Raise thoughtful questions and insightful observations in your paper. All events must be approved in advance. Most of these events are not in the North County of San Diego. You may need to drive to San Diego or to Riverside, if not farther. I understand that it may be difficult to travel, so make arrangements in advance. I approve certain events because I predict they will be well attended by members of the Deaf community. Please plan ahead to carpool with your classmates and attend two of these events (or others that I announce) during the semester. Discuss any potential schedule conflicts with me within the first three weeks of the semester.

You will be notified of approved events during the semester. Deaf Community Services (DCS), located at 3930 Fourth Ave., Suite 300, in the Hillcrest area of San Diego also has a calendar of events, but be sure to get instructor approval in advance (www.dcsofsd.org).
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Final Exam Schedule (subject to change):
You will have two final exams. For the comprehension part, I will sign to you and you will write down the meaning of what I sign. For the expressive portion, you will sign a story with certain required ASL features. These finals will take place during the last class of the semester and at the scheduled class time during final exam week. Holidays, important deadlines, and the final exam schedule can be accessed at http://www.palomar.edu/admissions/Calendars.htm. Be sure to check the date and time of the final exam. Attending this class session is mandatory. Three points will be deducted from your final project grade for every five minutes you are not present.

Expectations for note taking: You are expected to take notes during class!!

To succeed in this class, you must take responsibility for your learning. For example:

- If you are not following what is going on in class, raise your hand to ask for clarification (or at least show me on your face that you don’t understand). You MUST tell me if you are lost before I get too far ahead. Unlike other classes, you can’t find the answer in a book later, and I often can’t figure out where you got lost if you ask me after class. My signed conversations with other students are a great learning tool for all of you, even if you already caught what I signed. Be sure to watch how I respond when someone doesn’t understand me.

- Since there will be no spoken English used in class, it is imperative that you do your homework and check with a classmate if you have to miss a class. If you allow yourself to fall behind, it will be very difficult to catch up.

- Practice and memorize signs at home as soon as you can after class is over. If you don't remember how to produce a sign, come to class early enough to write it on the board. I will review any signs written on the board at the beginning of class.

Online resources:
ASL dictionaries: http://wwwaslpro.com/
and http://commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm

Fingerspelling practice: http://asl.ms/

An introduction to “audism” and attitudes about the oppression of Deaf people can be accessed at http://libguides.gallaudet.edu/content.php?pid=114455&sid=989379.

Course expectations and contact information:
If I cancel class for any reason, I try to notify you by email as soon as possible. Be sure Palomar College has your valid email information. You can update your email address through Palomar’s system. For answers to questions about email, go to http://studentmail.palomar.edu/faqs.htm.

Homework assignments:
You are expected to do homework every week. At the very least, you will be memorizing vocabulary and grammatical rules as well as practicing what you have learned. Not purchasing the books is not an excuse from completing homework assignments in a timely manner. DVDs/videos for both required textbooks are available for your use on reserve in the library at the Escondido campus and in the American Sign Language/Interpreting Lab on the San Marcos campus. You will periodically be given expressive signing assignments.
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Tentative class schedule:

Daily:
1. Review and memorize all vocabulary we have covered in class. As we cover each unit, be sure to take notes on any grammar, culture or language related information in both books.
2. To promote a successful signing only environment, please preview the vocabulary in the next unit of *Learning American Sign Language* (LASL) **before** coming to class each day.

Day 1 homework (due on day 2):
1. Find and read the syllabus that I email to you. It will also be posted on my Web page. Print at least a page of it and clearly write your name on the top. Bring it to the second class meeting. I will use this to take attendance.
2. Learn to fingerspell your first name at [http://asl.ms/](http://asl.ms/).

Day 2 homework:
1. Read “To the Student” in *Learning American Sign Language* (LASL, pp. xix-xx) and “Introduction” (pp. v-xiv) and “Strategies for Learning American Sign Language” (pp. 4-5) in *Signing Naturally* (SN). For each reading, write a summary of key points.
2. Learn to fingerspell my first and last name at [http://asl.ms/](http://asl.ms/).
3. Complete pp. 6-13 in your *Signing Naturally* workbook.

Day 3 homework:
1. Practice fingerspelling your first and last name as well as my first and last name.

Day 4 homework:
1. Complete pages 25-27, 31, and 33-36 in your *Signing Naturally* (SN) workbook, and make sure you know all of the Unit 1 vocabulary.
2. Review all vocabulary we have covered in Units 1 and 2 of *Learning American Sign Language* (LASL).

**Special needs:** Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with the instructor during the first two weeks of class.

**Diversity statement:**
Palomar College is committed to promoting respect for and sensitivity toward all of our students and staff. We take pride in our sexual, gender, religious, ethnic, and racial diversity. In this class and in the Deaf community, please be respectful.