

SYLLABUS
PART I
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASL 121S AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I
3 CREDIT HOURS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) and the Deaf Culture in America. Focus is on building sign vocabulary, fingerspelling, grammar and syntax rules, facial expressions, use of personal space, mime and the development of sensitivity and awareness of the Deaf Community in America. The student is expected to acquire basic signing skills and sign vocabulary. This course is not designed to train the student to function as an interpreter for the Deaf.

COURSE GOALS

The student will:

COGNITIVE COURSE GOALS
1. Demonstrate the use of fingerspelling the manual alphabet.
2. Develop a basic vocabulary of signs and numbers.
3. Employ the syntax and grammar rules of American Sign Language.
4. Apply the rules of etiquette in signing ASL.
5. Define the sign systems: ASL, PSE, MCE, and Cued Speech.
6. Acquire basic knowledge of deafness and the Deaf Culture.
7. Recognize the cultural differences signified by the terms: deaf/Deaf.
8. Demonstrate use of the terminology used in the field of deafness and manual communication.
9. Choose to communicate with the Deaf members of the local community.
10. Develop beginning-level expressive and receptive skills in ASL.
11. Identify and draw conclusions about myths which may be connected to deafness and the Deaf.
12. Develop a sense of "ease" while using American Sign Language.
13. Produce facial expressions, body language, gestures, and use of personal space while signing.
AFFECTIVE COURSE GOALS
1. Show awareness of the Deaf community as contributing members of society.
2. Accept the Deaf Culture's viewpoint on deafness; the majority feel they are not handicapped: they are simply unable to hear.
3. Respond to signed communication as one would to any spoken language.
4. Assume responsibility to identify weaknesses and seek additional help in areas of ASL as needed.
5. Identify and draw conclusions about myths which may be connected to deafness and the Deaf.
6. Discuss willingly one's motivation in learning American Sign Language.
7. Seek opportunities to communicate with the Def using ASL.
8. Defend the use of ASL and do nothing to reflect negatively on the language or the Deaf Community.
9. Accept: a) there is not one sign for every English word; b) there are many ways to sign each English word; c) signs vary from area to area, city to city, etc.; d) a different sign is not a wrong sign, usually.
PSYCHOMOTOR/AFFECTIVE COURSE GOALS:
1. Accept American Sign Language as a living and evolving language.
2. Act willing to increase one's vocabulary of signs when faced with a new sign.
3. Respect the Deaf Culture; act willing to reach out to Deaf people.
4. Demonstrate sufficient signing skills to establish communication with the Deaf.

5.	Carry out according to procedure the etiquette of initiating communication with a Deaf person.
6.	Show awareness that this is the language of the Deaf and agree to never dispute the signs the Deaf may use.
7.	Accept the myriad of translations for signs which makes it extremely difficult to select the exact English equivalent.

CORE VALUES

The Core Values are a set of principles which guide in creating educational programs and environments at Edison. They include communication, ethics, critical thinking, human diversity, inquiry/respect for learning, and interpersonal skills/teamwork. The goals, objectives, and activities in this course will introduce/reinforce these Core Values whenever appropriate.

TOPIC OUTLINE

1. ASL 121S will use the text: VISTA, Signing Naturally, Level I, Units 1-6. Vocabulary, Key Structures, Grammar and Cultural Notes.
2. Syntax Rules as applied to American Sign Language.
3. Comparison of American Sign Language (ASL), Pidgin Signed English (PSE), and Manually Coded English (MCE).
4. Aspects of Fingerspelling, the Manual Alphabet.
5. The use of Number signs in American Sign Language.
6. Demonstration and emphasis of the importance of Facial Expressions, the use of Personal Space, Body Language, Mime and Gestures in ASL.
7. Introduction of the rules of Etiquette of Signing.
8. Development of Expressive (Signing) and Receptive (understanding the signing of others) to achieve a beginning level of proficiency in ASL.
9. Definition of the terms: deaf/Deaf.
10. Overview of the History of the Deaf in America: a) language development, b) education options, c) career options, d) cultural development, e) social activities, and f) Deaf organizations.