Intermediate Sign Language
ASL II - ASL 1220 Section 01
CASPER COLLEGE-COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2015

Instructor: Gail Schenfisch, MS  RID IC, CI and CT, QMHI (Qualified Mental Health Interpreter)
Lecture Hours: 4  Lab Hours: 0  Credit Hours: 4
Class Time: 4:00- 6:00 PM  Days: Mon and Weds  Classroom: KT 154
Home Phone: 234-3834  Email: gasl@bresnan.net
Office Hours: available by appointment

Course Description: This course will provide intermediate level knowledge of American Sign Language vocabulary and grammar, fingerspelling, deafness, and deaf culture. Emphasis will be on developing receptive and expressive language skills within the parameters of sign language using the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language 5C’s to include: Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparisons and Community. ASL 1220 fulfills the Gen. Ed. requirement for Cultural Environment

Expanded Course Description: This course will provide an introduction to Sign Language, and intermediate vocabulary in context. ASL grammar will be taught and reinforced through classroom presentations, conversations, activities, cultural models and visual media presentations. Discussions will focus on deafness, deaf history, current trends and related topics.

Statement of Prerequisites: Successful completion (C or better) of CO/M 1200 or ASL 1200 or with instructor’s permission

Goal: The course will focus on expressive and conversational skills in the parameters of sign language. Students will demonstrate fluency, rate, and accuracy, ASL grammar and skills in receptive and expressive decoding of sign language. You will be a conversational learner.

Outcomes: Students will:
• Develop proficiency in the reception, analysis, evaluation and interpretation of information and information sources through signed and oral communication.
• Develop one’s ability to express complete thoughts in an organized comprehensible and persuasive manner in American Sign Language and English.
• Improve and refine their understanding of how to communicate appropriately, demonstrating a heightened awareness of diverse cultures.
• Develop a deeper understanding of aesthetic cultural historical and philosophical dimensions of traditions within the deaf community.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture.
• Learn to apply audience – appropriate conventions to the preparation and presentation of signed communications.

Methodology: Students will learn to expressively and receptively fingerspell, produce individual signs, and produce combinations of signs and phrases using correct grammar through teaching models, demonstrations, cultural interactions, structured activities as well as group work. Work will be evaluated through written receptive tests, group feedback, video evaluations and observations of expressive signing following a grading rubric.
** Please check with your advisor or registrar to determine which graduation requirement American Sign Language will satisfy.

Evaluation Criteria: 90-100=A, 80-90=B, 70-80=C, 60-70=D
Assignments & Quizzes, Midterm, Final Exam will all be graded on a points system equally.
Students will be allowed up to **three unexcused absences** per semester. Each unexcused absence after three will result in a reduction of your final grade by 0.5 a letter grade. Beyond these 3 absences, only a college sanctioned absence or medical absence will be excused (an official college or department excuse form or a note from your doctor will be necessary to excuse you. The note must be submitted by the next class meeting following your absence.) No absences of any kind will excuse you from class responsibilities. 3 absences = no grade reduction 4 absences = a 0.5 reduction of your final grade 5 absences = a 1.0 reduction in final grade

Tardiness: Attendance will be taken promptly at the start of class. If you enter the room after the roll call has been completed, you will be considered tardy. 3 tardies = 1 absence.

**Assignments are due on the posted date.** Assignments will be accepted one day late with reduction of one letter grade. Late assignments after the grace day, will NOT be accepted. No electronic submissions will be accepted. Expect quizzes on a weekly basis.

**Required Text, Readings, Materials:**
- Learning American Sign Language (2nd ed.) by Humphries and Padden, 2004
- A Loss for Words: The Story of Deafness in a Family by Lou Ann Walker 1986

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

**Class Policies**

**Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:** See catalog.

**Cell Phone Policy:** All cell phones must be turned off and must remain in backpacks, purses, etc. during the class. For an already established emergency situation about which you may be expecting a call, the instructor must be notified before class begins.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty - Cheating & Plagiarism:** Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct. **Students plagiarizing any portion of work will be immediately withdrawn from class by the instructor.**

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**Calendar or schedule indicating course content:** This syllabus is your guide for this course; specific information regarding assignments will be given in class. Assignments are subject to revision and/or deletion based upon the instructor’s assessment of needs and progress of the class working from the syllabus.
# Intermediate Sign Language

## Student Calendar ASL 1220

### Spring 2015

| WEEK 1 | Jan 21 | *Introductions and Personal Information*
|        |       | Warming Back - Timber overview - Reading |
| WEEK 2 | Jan 26 & 29 | **Unit 12** Offering and Declining *Learning ASL*
|        |       | *A Loss for Words* questions due Wednesday thru page 68 |
| WEEK 3 | Feb 2 & 4 | **Unit 13** More Ways to Express Yourself |
| WEEK 4 | Feb 9 & 11 | **Unit 14** Experiences and Current Activity
|        |       | *A Loss for Words* questions due Wednesday pp. 68 -12 |
| WEEK 5 | Feb 18 | **Unit 15** Future Plans and Obligations
|        |       | Submit “Timber” story to YouTube drop by Wednesday |
| WEEK 6 | Feb 23 & 25 | **Unit 16** Directions and Instructions
|        |       | *A Loss for Words* questions due Wednesday pp. 127- 208 ABC Stories -Group work |
| WEEK 7 | Mar 2 & 4 | **Review Units 11-16**
|        |       | Group ABC stories due in class |
| WEEK 8 | Mar 9 & 11 | **Unit 17** Suggestions and Advice
|        |       | Submit “Gum Story” story to YouTube drop by Monday |
| WEEK 9 | Mar 16 & 18 | Spring Break |
| WEEK 10 | Mar 23 & 25 | **Unit 18** Attitudes and Opinions
|        |       | Download discussion topic regarding deaf artists |
| WEEK 11 | Mar 30 & Apr 1 | **Unit 19** Recreational Activities
|        |       | *Assignment #1 Comparison Paper due Monday*
|        |       | Discussion Assignment due Wednesday about deaf artists
|        |       | Download discussion topic regarding signed music |
| WEEK 12 | Apr 6 & 8 | **Unit 20** Travel – Places and Experiences
|        |       | Submit “Wrong Name” Story to YouTube drop by Wednesday |
| WEEK 13 | Apr 13 & 15 | **Unit 21** Occupations and Professions
|        |       | Discussion Assignment due Wednesday about signed music
|        |       | Download discussion topic regarding health care and deafness |
| WEEK 14 | Apr 20 & 22 | **Unit 22** The Body, Health and Emergencies
|        |       | Discussion due Wednesday about health care and deafness
|        |       | *Assignment #2:Response paper “Deaf Experience” due 4/20* |
| WEEK 15 | Apr 27 & 29 | **Unit 23** Current Events |
| WEEK 16 | May 4 & 6 | **Unit 24** How Things are Done
|        |       | Present personal story |
| WEEK 17 | May 11 & 13 | Social Cultural Event
|        |       | **Final Exam** to match the published College Schedule |

*This schedule is a guideline for students (and the teacher). All assignments are due on their due date. No electronic submissions accepted.*
-**Weekly Fingerspelling Assignment:**
Students will be required to submit weekly fingerspelling practice on Mondays with 25 minimum correct words at fast or deaf speed. Please use the following web site:
http://asl.ms/lol/htm

-**ABC Stories – Group work** Students will work together in groups of 2-3 to develop an ABC story to present in class. Be ready to present on the first due date.

-**Story telling downloads** – Due on private YouTube download site (further discussed in class) No late work accepted.

-**Discussion Assignments:** The discussion assignment purpose is to:
  1. Develop insight into the nature of language and culture by comparing Deaf culture and language to your own (4.1, 4.2)
  2. Communicate in ASL by expressing feelings, exchanging opinions, understanding others signed language as well as presenting information to others on your opinions regarding a variety of different topics (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)
  3. Gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures who use sign languages around the world by demonstrating an understanding of the relationship between practices, perspective and products of deaf culture (2.1, 2.2)
  4. Connect with other disciplines and acquire information by discussions with peers (3.1)
  5. Recognize distinctive viewpoints that represent other countries cultures and signed languages (3.2)

Topics and discussion questions will be distributed electronically approximately every two weeks. Students are to come prepared on the assigned date having read the printed materials, completed the study questions, and have watched the videos pertaining to that week's subject. Students should be prepared to discuss the issues using sign only.

-**Assignment #1** Comparison Paper -Love is Never Silent / A Loss for Words
  
  A CODA (child of deaf adults) lives between two worlds – the world of their first language (ASL) and the world of their second language. After reading “A Loss for Words” and watching, “Love is Never Silent” write a full 2 -3 page reaction paper about things you learned. Talk about how the materials made you feel, what emotions they evoked. Was there a particular character that you related to in the book or movie. What scenes were particularly poignant to you and why? Are there comparisons that you can make between the two sources? Your paper is due at the beginning of class on the due date. Your paper should be typed using a 12 point font and double spaced. It will be graded on grammar, spelling and content. This paper will be worth 25 points. No electronic submissions will be accepted.

-**Assignment #2** Outside Observation
  
  During the semester you will be required to attend and participate in at least one hour of a deaf experience. These events might include Deaf bowling, Deaf coffee, a Deaf Expo, WYHI Contact, observe a classroom which uses an interpreter, or attend an interpreted event in the community (to name a few). You may attend more than one event. You must interact with at least one participant at the event (this experience should be different than last semester's observation). Using the information from your observation, students will 'report back to the class' summarizing their experience using sign (notes are allowed). Also, students will write a two page response paper describing the experience. How did you feel? What did you learn? How many participants were involved? Who did you talk with while you were there? Please refrain from mentioning specific names of participants. Describe the person in a way that clarifies your story but respects the Deaf community's privacy.

  Your paper is due at the beginning of class on the posted due date. Your paper should be typed using a 12 point font and double spaced. It will be graded on grammar, spelling and content. This paper will be worth 25 points. No electronic submissions will be accepted.