ASL111-1, Introduction to ASL Level 1

4 hours/4 credits

Fall 20XX Queens College

Adjunct Lecturer Robert Flaucher

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Office Hour: XXX.

**Course Syllabus**

# Course background

An introduction to American Sign Language and Deaf culture will bring you a new perspective on both Deaf and hearing worlds. You will develop basic conversational skills in American Sign Language (ASL). You will learn ASL is its own language with grammar structures—syntax and morphology—far different from English. You will learn that the Deaf community in America has fought to be recognized as a group of linguistic minorities, rather than a group of disability. From the course readings, you will learn the history of ASL and Deaf culture; the obstacles and challenges that many Deaf people have faced and overcome, but still struggle in contemporary society. The goal is for you to walk away from this course with basic knowledge in conversational ASL signs and American Deaf culture.

# Queens College General Education Statement: This course satisfies the following five Queens College Language criteria.

QC1: Address how, in the discipline (or disciplines) of the course, data and evidence are construed and knowledge is acquired; that is, how questions are asked and answered.

QC2: Position the discipline(s) in the liberal arts curriculum and the larger society

QC 3: Understand and use the concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field

QC 4: Gather, interpret and assess information from various sources, and evaluate arguments critically

QC 5: Solve problems, support conclusions, or defend insights.

# In Addition, this QC College Option LANG course satisfies the following learning outcomes:

LANG 1: Differentiate types of language and appreciate their structures.

LANG 2: Appreciate what is lost or gained in translations among languages.

LANG 3: Relate language, thought, and culture.

LANG 4: Compare natural languages, formal languages, and logic.

LANG 5: Understand the processes involved in learning languages.

# Finally, this course has Course-Specific Learning Outcomes

COURSE 1: Produce and understand basic **informational conversations** involving classroom items and actions, school subjects, personal physical characteristics, family and other important interpersonal relationships, human identity differences, and basic education, employment, and occupation related topics

COURSE 2: Produce and comprehend **politeness strategies** such as attention-getting strategies introductions and greetings, giving complements, and requests

COURSE 3: Show **metalinguistic awareness** of formal aspects of ASLincluding gestures and how they combine in lexicon and morphosyntax as needed for learning outcomes 1 and 2

COURSE 4: Demonstrate correct handshapes for ASL **fingerspelling**,

COURSE 5: Expressing understanding of **US Deaf culture** and how it compares and contrasts with hearing cultures.

# Materials

* *True+Way ASL* (TW ASL) *3rd Edition*, Units 1—3: This e-study book is your primary study tool. On TWA, students will complete worksheets and take quizzes.
* SignOn Connect: Toward the end of the course semester students will have an opportunity to chat with a Deaf ambassador using ASL at basic conversational level and write a one-page summary on the experience. SignOn Connect (website), purchase one session only
* Deaf cultural book: Students will read a chapter each week and answer questions over the weekend.
* *Introduction to American Deaf Culture*, Thomas K. Holcomb
* The ASL App (optional)

# Class Policy

1. There will be NO VOICE or word-mouthing when signing. This is because ASL and English languages are two different languages with distinct grammar structures.
2. Attendance is not recorded but you are responsible for your own actions. If you miss a class, contact your students for updates, DO NOT CONTACT ME.
3. Absolutely no texting or any other form of communications allowed. Please respect your teacher and fellow classmates by providing your full attention and participation.

# Assessments

* Discussion posts: Students will read articles and/or view videos on current affairs in the ASL community and write a short response to each post. This will allow students to analyze and apply critical thinking to the cultural norms between the Deaf and hearing worlds.
* *TW ASL* Units 1-3 worksheets + quizzes: Various worksheets (exercises) and quizzes conducted on *True+Way ASL* (specified with asterisk in the course outline below) will help students to apply what they’ve learned in each unit lesson and meet outcome learning’s goals.
* Cultural book reading: With the assigned chapters reading and open-book quizzes students will learn how Deaf culture fit into the topics of history, education, psychology, cultural studies, technology, mainstream media, and the arts. The goal is to learn about Deaf culture and norms and its implications and impacts to the hearing world and vice versa.
* Mid-term: Students are to demonstrate mastery of ASL in Units 1.5-2.4 by demonstrating correct signings skills and correct English to ASL translations and v.
* Final exam: Students are to demonstrate mastery of ASL in Units 2.5-3.4 by demonstrating correct signings skills and correct English to ASL translations.

No extra credits will be given. Just do the work and hand them in on time! For Queens College grade system please visit ‘Academic and Grading Policies’ on Queens College website.

# Attendance Policy

Please attend every class. Students’ participation in class will foster a supportive and productive learning environment. There will be many class and group activities, both online and in person. In addition to every class there will be lesson reviews. A student with poor attendance or class participation will be an inconvenience to other fellow classmates and may adversely affect the student’s achievement and grade for the course study.

# Academic Integrity

Students who violate CUNY rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy website.

# Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments

Students should notify the instructor of any modification/adaptation that may require to accommodate student’s disability-related need. For more information please see the CUNY Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments website.

# Grading

The total weighted grading will be based on the quality of your work. Late work may result in some penalty.

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| **Assessment** | **Weeks due** | **Grade %** | **Learning Outcomes** | | |
| **QC** | **Lang** | **Course** |
| 10 discussion posts on Blackboard | 2-7 & 9-14 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| SignOn Connect paper | Week 13 | 10 |  |  | All |
| TrueWay ASL (TW ASL) Units 1-3 worksheets & quizzes | 3, 6, 9, 11 | 15 | 1 | 1-4 | 1-4 |
| Cultural book Quizzes | 2, 4, 5, 10, 12 | 20 | 1, 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Mid-term | 8 | 20 | 1-5 | 1-5 | 1-5 |
| Final exam | 15 | 25 | 1-5 | 1-5 | 1-4 |

# Detailed Course Outline

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| Meeting | Day | Topic | Readings/Assignments | Objectives/  Criteria Met |
| 1 | Fri., 1/28 | Intro to Course Syllabus & Structure |  |  |
| 2 | Fri., 2/4 | * ASL Features   + Basic Grammar Structure   + Sign Parameters/Parts   + ASL grammatical order   + Handshapes/non-hand features * Deaf Culture * Pragmatics:   + Backchanneling   + Attention-getting * Common Misconceptions * Fingerspelling * Navigation Guides for True+Way ASL | * Discussion post * Cultural book Quizzes | * QC2, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1, 4, Lang 3, Course 5 |
| 3 | Mon., 2/8 | * Signing   + Sign Speed   + Fingerspelling Tips   + Alphabet & Handshape Errors * Grammar   + Common Sentence Types   + First and Last Names   + Pronouns and Possessive Pronouns   + HER vs HER | * discussion post * TW ASL 1.2, 1.3 quizzes * worksheets | * QC 2, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1, Lang 1, 2, Course 3,4 * QC 1, Lang 1,2, Course 3,4 |
| 4 | Fri., 2/18 | * ASL vocabulary: Numbers * ASL Grammar   + Articles   + Word order | * discussion post * Cultural book Quizzes * Worksheets | * QC2, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1, 4, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1, Lang 1,2, Course 1,3 |
| 5 | Fri., 2/25 | * ASL vocabulary:   + school and related   + names and titles * Finger-spelling Names * Deaf Culture- Higher Education Institutions | * discussion post * Cultural book Quizzes * Worksheets | * QC2, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1, 4, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1, Lang 1,2, Course 1,4,5 |
| 6 | Fri., 3/4 | * ASL vocabulary: classroom environ. * ASL Grammar:   + Semantic: “Break”   + Noun and Verb Pairs   + Circle vs. Circle (sign concept) | * TW ASL 1.4, 1.5, 2.1-2.3 quizzes * worksheets | * QC2, Lang 1-4, Course 1,3 * QC 1, Lang 1,2, |
| 7 | Fri., 3/11 | * ASL vocabulary:   + school people   + darkness/lightness * ASL Grammar:   + handshape comprehension   + agent marking | * discussion post * TW ASL2.4 quizzes * worksheets | * QC2, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1, Lang 1-4, Course 1,3 * QC 1, Lang 1,2, Course 1,3 |
| 8 | Fri., 3/18 | N/A | * Mid-term | * QC all, Lang all, Course all |
| 9 | Fri., 3/25, | * Vocabulary   + Academic Degrees   + Roman Numerals   + Numbers: 67-98 * Grammar:   + Conjunctions: And & Then | * discussion post * TW ASL 2.5 quizzes * worksheets | * QC 2, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1, Lang 1-4, Course 1,3 * QC 1, Lang 1,2 |
| 10 | Fri., 4/1, | * Vocabulary   + Personal Appearance   + Compliments * Grammar   + Referents   + Present vs. Not Present   + Ranking, Ordering, or Listing | * discussion post * Cultural book Quizzes * TW ASL 3.1 quizzes | * QC2, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1,4, Lang 3, Course 1-3 |
| 11 | Fri., 4/8, | * Vocabulary   + Family relationships/terms   + Gender markers   + Friends   + Pets * Grammar   + Gender markers | * discussion post * TW ASL 3.2 quizzes * worksheets, | * QC 1, Lang 1,2, Course 5 * QC 1, Lang 1-4, Course 1,3 * QC 1, Lang 1,2, Course 1,3 |
| 12 | Fri., 4/29, | * Vocabulary   + Friends   + Non-family relationships   + Pets   + Quantities/Ages * Grammar   + Compound words * Deaf Culture   + Alphabet Soup: CODA and More | * discussion post * Cultural book Quizzes * TW ASL 3.3 quizzes | * QC 2, Lang 3,Course 5 * QC 1, 4, Lang 3, Course 5 * QC 1, Lang 1-4, Course 1-3 |
| 13 | Fri., 5/7, | * Vocabulary   + Sufficiency terms   + Occupations   + Employment | * SignOn Connect paper * discussion post | * QC all, Lang all, Course all * QC 2, Lang 3, Course 5 |
| 14 | Fri., 5/14, | * Vocabulary   + Requirements/Obligations   + Life milestones | * Discussion post * TW ASL 3.4 quizzes | * QC 2, Lang 3, Course 5 |
| Final | TBA |  | * Final Exam | * QC all, Lang all, Course all |