**American Sign Language Syllabus**

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Welcome to American Sign Language. This class will expose students to the language and the culture of the Deaf World.   American Sign Language is a complex language that uses hand shapes and movement to create words with specific grammar rules. American Sign Language is considered a foreign language and can be taken at the University of Iowa and Kirkwood for credit.

In this class, you are going to learn about sign language, the history of deafness, and current cultural issues.   There will be limited talking allowed in class. There will be times when you will be asked to turn off your voice so we can emerge ourselves in learning the language. If you want to practice, relearn, or extension material from class please see my webpage for more information.

**The Main Goals**

Students will. . .

1. Describe surrounding area.
2. Be able to describe yourself.
3. Tell about activities they participate in.
4. Learn the alphabet and numbers.
5. Understand historical and cultural aspects of ASL.
6. Be able to ask questions correctly.

**Expectations**

* Come to class prepared and on time.
* Show up with a I CAN attitude
* Respect everyone
* Be willing to try new things

**Outline of Events** (events are subject to change)

**Week 1:**

Day 1) Students take a pre-assessment about what they know about history and culture of ASL. Then they learn alphabet.

Day 2) Students learn key introductory words/phrases and practice finger spelling. Students will also read about the communication f American Sign Language.

Day 3) Students learn numbers 1-10 and review past words. In addition, the students will learn a brief history about Galladet University.

Day 4) Students learn commands, how to ask simple questions, and the basic grammar structure of ASL

Day 5) We review the information from the week and play bingo.

**Week 2:**

Day 1) Students learn key vocabulary words associated with school.

Day 2) Students learn numbers 11-20. Students learn how to explain where they live and how they got to school.

Day 3) Students learn key family signs and how to describe their family. They also learn about Alexander’s Graham Bell’s “contributions” to the Deaf World.

Day 4) We review for the past two weeks and learn about the debate surrounding Cochlear implants.

Day 5) Students teach their parents how to sign basic words and introduce them to the class.