

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** ASL 101

**Credits:** 4

**Course Title:** American Sign Language I

**Course Description:** Introduces the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL) used by the Deaf Community, including basic vocabulary, syntax, fingerspelling, and grammatical non-manual signals. Focuses on communicative competence. Introduces cultural knowledge and increases understanding of the Deaf Community. Part I of II. Lecture 4 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** To introduce students to both the practical elements of producing and comprehending American Sign Language (ASL) in common discourse and the Deaf people who use this language.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

None

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Demonstrate ability to use space and non-manuals for comparison and contrast;
- b. Describe the difference in production between a “yes/no” and a “wh” question, and demonstrate ability to ask and respond to each question form;
- c. Provide appropriate back-channel feedback and ask clarification questions;
- d. Describe where they live and how (route by which) they come to school;
- e. Provide basic information about immediate family, including age-order ranking;
- f. Appropriately establish tense and talk about common activities;
- g. Utilize negation via non-manual (head movement), at least three different lexical signs, and a combination of both manual and non-manual elements;
- h. Communicate future goals in relation to work, family, and self; and
- i. Describe three elements of what it means to identify yourself as being Deaf.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. Appropriate methods of introducing self to others
- b. Exchanging personal information
- c. Ability to discuss physical surroundings
- d. Telling where you live and how you travel
- e. Talking about your family
- f. Telling about activities
- g. Negotiating an environment using ASL
- h. An introduction to Deaf culture and community

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