

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

**Course Prefix and Number:** ASL 125

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** History and Culture of the U.S. Deaf Community I

**Course Description:** Presents an overview of various aspects of Deaf culture, including educational and legal issues. Examines the history of the Deaf Community. Prerequisite: Placement for ENG 111. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** To expand upon the history and culture of Deaf people in America, serving as a portion of the preparation for the National Interpreting Certification (NIC) Knowledge exam.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

Prerequisite: Placement for ENG 111

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe the major forces behind the foundation and continuation of the Deaf Community in America;
- b. Provide a general description of American Deaf culture, focusing on how this viewpoint contrasts with that of the general American public, and support same with real-life examples;
- c. Describe the general linguistic and social similarities and differences between ASL, English, Cued Speech, and manually coded forms of English (MCEs);
- d. Identify the major events of the last two centuries that have impacted members of the American Deaf Community; and
- e. Parallel the experience of Deaf Americans with that of other cultural and linguistic minorities, including the Native American and various immigrant groups.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. The formation/existence of Deaf communities and the natural development of a viewpoint centered from members of Deaf communities (i.e., Deaf culture)
- b. Varying societal views of persons who are Deaf and resulting educational, legislative, religious, and social outcomes
- c. The study, identification, and recognition of American Sign Language (ASL), in contrast with English and manually coded forms of English (MCEs)
- d. Examples of literature and art within the U.S. Deaf Community

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** April 10, 2009