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 or Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. 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 or Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:
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

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