

Xavier University
Department of Modern Languages
American Sign Language
ASLN 102 - Spring 2012

Instructor: Rebecca Hardesty, M.Ed. **Email:** Hardestyr@xavier.edu or RHardesty@srsdeaf.org
Phone: Dept. of Modern Languages at 745-3484. Leave message with Pam Rose, secretary; OR 771-7600 x342
Office hours: M- 6:45-7:00 PM or by appointment
Course Dates/Times: M, 4:15 PM –6:45 PM **Prerequisites:** ASLN 101

Required Text: VISTA Signing Naturally, Level 1 student workbook and videotext by Smith, Lentz and Mikos

Welcome to Xavier's second level course in the visual language of American Sign Language (ASL). This elementary sign language class is designed to build on the basic principles and skills learned in ASLN 101. It includes principles, methods and techniques for communicating with deaf individuals who sign. The focus is development of receptive and expressive sign skills, manual alphabet, numbers and sign vocabulary. An overview of syntax, grammar and Deaf culture is provided.

Course Objectives:

Students who satisfactorily complete this course and units 7 - 12 in the required text should be able to:

- Develop use of and expand knowledge of signs in context.
- Develop manual alphabet and number sign skills.
- Combine signs, numbers and fingerspelling into meaningful ASL, in both expressive and receptive communication modes.
- Learn the linguistic and cultural material in the text, lectures, videos, and course readings.

Blackboard/email:

A) Our class uses blackboard. There are a variety of papers and assignment information located under our Blackboard class. You are REQUIRED to check our class on a regular basis. In addition, you are required to print and have available at all times all of the documents listed under DOCUMENTS in our class. If you cannot print from Blackboard, contact the Xavier Help Desk for assistance.

B) I submit all grades via the Blackboard grading system. You are able to view your current grades in this class at all times throughout the semester.

C) I email information about our class on a regular basis. Be sure you have your Xavier email address forwarding emails to a personal email or check your XU email on a regular basis. You are expected to check for emails pertaining to our class on a regular basis, and download and print all documents attached to emails and bring them to class with you each time.

D) I typically check my Xavier email daily, but if want to reach me more quickly, you can use my St. Rita email (rhardesty@srsdeaf.org), as it goes directly to my phone. My direct phone line during the day is 513-771-7600, x342. You can leave a voice mail if I am unavailable.

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and participation:

A language requires practice and study; students are expected to attend all classes. You are expected to be on time to class. Participation in class activities and dialogues is required along with completion of exercises in class workbook. In order to effectively learn the language, you must participate in all activities asked of you in class. Every minute you are late affects your ability to understand the language, and interrupts the concentration of the others in class. It is also rude and disrespectful to both the instructor and class if you are late. Attendance will be taken each class.

Attendance is mandatory for this class. Due to the nature of the curriculum, it is impossible to learn outside of the class setting. All information related to the course is explained and taught during class times, and a lot of information is covered in a short time. Therefore, missing a class will set you considerably behind. Please review the attendance policy below:

- 1) Your first absence is excused, regardless of the reason.
- 2) Each additional absence will result in a 10 pt. decrease from your participation/attendance grade. If you miss class for family bereavement, medical reason, or legal obligation, you must bring in proof of reason for the absence in order for that absence to be excused (this would

be a signed note from: your doctor for an illness, your advisor for bereavement, or from a court or lawyer for a legal matter).

3) YOU are responsible for learning the material that was taught while you were absent, even if the absence is excused. Attending lab is a great way to do this. **NO TESTS WILL BE MADE UP IF YOU MISS CLASS, REGARDLESS OF THE REASON.**

4) Being late to class is disruptive. Two tardies or two early departures = one absence, resulting in a 10 pt. decrease from your participation/attendance grade.

5) If you are involved in Xavier sports, it is your responsibility to make me aware of the dates you will be absent. Providing me with a schedule pre-season is fine, but you are also required to remind me the day before any sport's absence so I can adequately mark your following absence as excused.

6) Traveling for work, family vacations, conflicts with other classes or labs, conflicts with other Xavier activities (outside of official sports events for student athletes), and illnesses without a doctor's note are NOT excused. Emailing me about your absence does not excuse you from class.

Participation in class is mandatory. You must use your hands and practice the signs in class. Students are expected to do the following, for every class:

- Pick up your hands and COPY the signs that the instructor shows you
- USE those new signs independently to answer questions from the instructor
- PRACTICE those new signs in small group activities with other students
- COMBINE those new signs into short sentences and phrases to ask and answer more complex questions in class.

If you do all of the above, you will become much more comfortable signing, and will comprehend the material much more quickly. You'll also find it easier to participate in lab, and to interact with the Deaf community for class assignments.

Finally, rude and/or disruptive students may be asked to leave the class if they cannot control themselves and stay on topic in classroom discussions and small group activities. This class can be a lot of fun, but not if I have to compete with disruptive students for the class' attention. Please focus on the assigned topic, turn your cell phones OFF, and have fun learning to sign!

2) Assignments:

1) All assignments must be handed to the instructor in class, or emailed to the instructor by 11:59 PM, on the due dates.

2) Late assignments will be penalized 10 points of assignment grade for each class date late (This averages to about 0.7 points per calendar day that the assignment is late, since this class meets 1x/week).

3) If you have a planned absence due to a sport's activity or other excusable reason, on a date when an assignment is due, the assignment is still due in class on time. You can send it in to class with another student, or email it to me.

4) Assignments sent via email will be accepted, as long as you let me know it is being emailed. Please make arrangements with me in advance if you will not be in class on the day that an assignment is due and need to email the assignment. *I am not responsible for cyberspace black holes that swallow up your email attachments.* You need to make arrangements with me to email your paper, and wait for a confirmation back from me that I received it, or you won't get credit.

3) Language use:

The target language (ASL) must be used in class. You are NOT ALLOWED to speak in English or use your voice during class, unless you are given permission to do so. Students are expected to respect this language and culture. Unnecessary voicing in class will result in points lost. American Sign Language is to be used in this classroom.

4) Tests

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP TESTS. There are 5 tests (units 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11), of which the lowest grade is dropped. If you miss a test, that will be the one dropped from your average. Because tests are signed "live" by the instructor, it is impossible to leave the test with the registrar's office for make-up. Therefore, dropping a test grade allows for unplanned absences on test dates. You do not have the option of keeping all 5 test grades in order to get extra points – the lowest test grade MUST be dropped.

On test days, you may NOT leave after the test – the class will continue with the next unit after everyone has completed the test. Since this class meets once per week instead of 3 times per week, we have to cover a lot of material in each class, so the class does continue after each test.

If you arrive late to class on a test day, you can take the remainder of the test that I have not yet finished signing to the class. This may allow you to earn partial credit. However, you will not be able to make-up any portion of the test that you missed prior to your arrival. If you arrive so late that I have already completed signing the test (even if the class itself is still in session), then you have missed that test and will receive a zero for your grade. This policy is in effect for all 5 unit tests as well as for the final exam.

You CANNOT make-up the Final Exam or take it on a different day/time. The final exam will be given at the regular class day and time during Finals Week. The final exam CANNOT be the test grade that you drop.

5) Community Activity:

You are required to attend one event of the Deaf community, and to interact with Deaf individuals at this Deaf event, using ASL. After attending the event, a 3-page typed report on the activity must be turned in by the due date. In the paper, be sure to list the name of the event, the date you attended and where it was held, and names of any Deaf individuals you interacted with (you do NOT need their signature!).

Discuss your experience and opinion of the event. Be as detailed as possible, especially regarding how you felt during the experience. You may attend an event at your convenience; however, attendance and paper MUST be turned in no later than the assigned date. Do not wait until the last week, as events are not always consistently offered in the Deaf community. No excuses will be accepted. Do not procrastinate! Specific information regarding the project, as well as options for community activities, will be provided in class. If you have contact with the Deaf community in other areas outside of Cincinnati and want to attend an event there, please check with me first to make sure it is appropriate.

A sampling of choices of activities to attend:

- 1) Silent dinners: 1st Friday of every month at a local mall food court (location changes each month) – 7 pm
Eastgate Mall, January 6, 2012
Northgate Mall, Feb. 3, 2012
Kenwood Mall, March 2, 2012
Tri-County Mall, April 6, 2012
- 2) Christ's Church of the Deaf, 5064 Sidney Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45238 www.ccdanddbcm.com - Deaf Church - ASL service, voice interpreter for the hearing
- 3) Lighthouse Baptist Church of the Deaf, 5529 Mason Rd, Mason, OH www.lighthousedeaf.com – Deaf Church - ASL service Sunday 11:11 AM
- 4) Erlanger Baptist Deaf Mission - 116 Commonwealth Avenue, Erlanger, KY 41018. Richie4fly@att.blackberry.net; FNLfly@yahoo.com ; VP: 866-480-8795 (Office), VP: 866-678-7543 (Home). There will be Sunday School Class at 9:15AM every Sunday, and Sunday Worship Service at 10:30AM, and Wednesday evening - Bible Study at 6:30PM
- 5) St. Rita's School for the Deaf Chapel – 11:15 Sunday Mass. (church on second floor of school). www.srsdeaf.org Mass presented in ASL and English
- 6) Northern Kentucky Church of Christ, Florence, KY – Sunday 6 pm service interpreted
- 7) First Baptist Church of Cold Spring, 4410 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY – interpreted services Sunday 10:30 AM; www.fbccs.com
- 8) Vineyard Community Church, 11340 Century Circle East, Springdale, OH.45246 - 10:15 service interpreted every Sunday. www.cincyvineyard.com
- 9) Vineyard Church in Florence, 7101 Pleasant Valley Road, Florence, KY 41005, Saturdays 6PM – interpreted service
- 10) Lakeside Christian Church, 195 Buttermilk Pike, Lakeside Park, KY www.lakeside.org – interpreted Sunday service
- 11) St. Jude Church – Bridgetown. Interpreted Mass on Saturdays 4:30 PM
- 12) Friendship Baptist Church - Cheviot Rd and Ronald Reagan Highway– Wed. 7:00 p.m., Sun. 8:45am, 11 am, 6:30 p.m. Email for more info: debstephens@juno.com
- 13) Good Shepard Parish and Church – Montgomery/Loveland OH – interpreted service Sunday 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
- 14) Main Street Baptist Church - Alexandria, KY 41001 – interpreted service Sunday 9:30 AM; Contact: Bonnie Pickett (859) 781-3608 to be sure of interpreter
- 15) River Hills Christian Church, 6300 Price Road, Loveland, OH 45140 - Interpreted Service Sundays 10:20 am, 9:00am and 11:45am. www.riverhillscc.com
- 16) Fairfield Church of Christ, 745 Symmes Rd, Fairfield, OH – Interpreted Service Sundays 11:00 AM
- 17) Mother of God Church, 6th Street, Covington, KY – Interpreted Mass Sundays 11:30 AM
- 18) Christ Emmanuel Christian Fellowship – 2324 May Street, Cincinnati, OH 45206 - www.christemmanuel.org
- 19) Holy Trinity – 2420 Drex Avenue (corner of Drex and Montgomery Road), Norwood, OH 45212 – interpreted Mass on Sundays