

<b>Instructor:</b> Michael Dunham	<b>University of Maryland, College Park</b> <b>Department of Special Education</b>	<b>Course Dates:</b> January 25, 2016- May 10, 2016
<b>Room:</b> JMZ 0122 (Section 101) KNI 1105 (Section 201)		<b>EDSP476</b> <b>Communicating with Sign Language</b>

## Course Syllabus

**E-mail:** [dunhaminc@gmail.com](mailto:dunhaminc@gmail.com)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Mailbox:** 1308 Benjamin Building

**Required Text:** Signing Naturally Level 1—Student Workbook and DVD  
(Smith, Lenz, & Mikos 2008)

**Optional Text:** American Sign Language Concise Dictionary  
(Sternberg)

### Course Description:

American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual-gestural language that possesses all of the properties of a natural language. It is rule-governed and has a rich history. This course is designed to build on the foundations taught in *EDSP376: Fundamentals of Sign Language*. The goal is to provide students a way to communicate and interact comfortably in a variety of situations in the Deaf community. Through visual-gestural activities, guided practice, presentations, and practical assignments, we will explore the language, education, and culture of the American Deaf community.

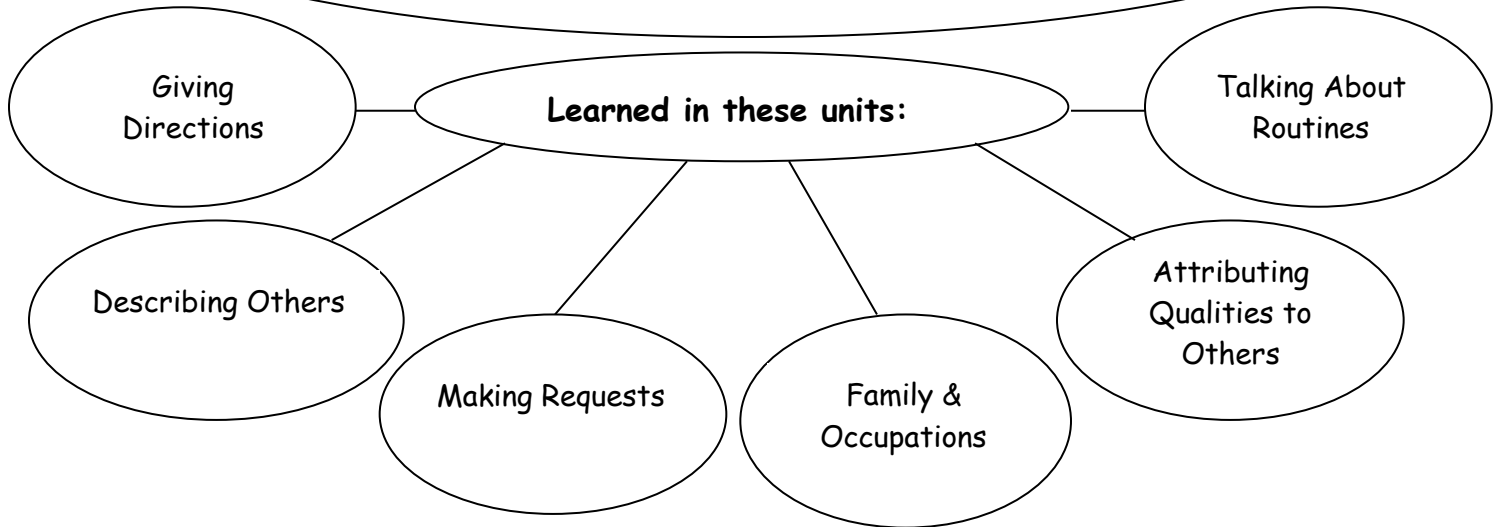
### Course Goals & Objectives:

*By the end of this course, students should be able to:*

1. Understand and use target sign vocabulary expressively and receptively
2. Understand the importance of non-manual signals (NMS) in ASL
3. Develop expressive fingerspelling in short words and name
4. Develop storytelling through ASL
5. Know the diverse educational placement options for students who are deaf and hard of hearing
6. Show awareness and respect for Deaf culture

## Important Concepts

\*getting attention \*handling interruptions \*opening & closing conversations  
\* giving listener feedback \* negotiating environment \*interrupting others  
\* number forms \*role shifting \*limb classifiers \*above/below perspective



## Course Expectations & Requirements

### Attendance:

- Students are expected to attend class regularly and be on time. Active participation is essential!
- Students are allowed to miss 3 classes **for any reason**. When you miss class for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, **for any reason**, it will impact your grade. The instructor will deduct 15 points for each class you miss.
- If you miss class, it is your responsibility to consult with your classmates for any notes, assignments, and new signs introduced.

### Midterm Project:

- In this course there is no midterm exam; however, there is a midterm project.
- Each student will introduce themselves and a family member or friend in a 2-minute presentation.

### Assignments & Discussion Board:

- Assignments must be submitted on due dates. Points will be deducted from each assignment handed in late.

- Assignments must be typed and double-spaced with 12-point font. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.
- Assignments must be submitted on the ELMS by midnight of the due date.

#### **Homework:**

- During the semester, homework will be given to reinforce what has been taught in class. The instructor may spot check homework for extra credit or give a pop quiz based on the assignment. But generally, homework is not collected.

#### **Communication:**

- Please **sign** at all times during class sessions.
- Voice interpreting for other students is not permitted. If you do not understand, please ask! If necessary, gesture or write. **\*NO PAGER\***
- **THINK SIGN** 😊

#### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

- If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss accommodations, contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester.
- For information on accommodations, see: [www.counseling.umd.edu/DDS](http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DDS)

#### **Sustainability: A Chesapeake Project**

I had the opportunity to attend the Chesapeake Project two-days workshop based on integrating sustainability in our course curriculum. University of Maryland is working on a goal to be a model of a "green university", not only in converting their resources but in our education as well. This semester, using the revised curriculum, we will cover the subject, engaging dialogue in ASL. We will discuss the concepts of environmental, economic, and social sustainability in our class.

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is a foundation for learning. The University has approved a Code of Academic Integrity available on the web at [www.inform.umd.edu/jpo/](http://www.inform.umd.edu/jpo/). The Code prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. The Code is administered by a Student Honor Council, which strives to promote a "community of trust" on the College Park campus. Any member of the campus community can report allegations of academic dishonesty directly to the Honor Council (301.314.8206).

### Assignments, Exam, & Project Descriptions

Assignment	Points	Due*
<p><b>Who's Who?</b> There are many Deaf and Hard of Hearing people who have made history. For this assignment you will research 5 notable figures in Deaf history and culture.</p>	25	2/11
<p><b>Midterm Project</b> Students will introduce themselves with a 2 minute in-class presentation. Vocabulary from Units 1-4 can be used. For details see project rubric. <b>Rough Draft Due: 3/6</b></p>	50	3/7, 3/9
<p><b>Got ASL?</b> For this assignment, you will create a brochure to encourage people in the University of Maryland community to learn ASL.</p>	25	3/10
<p><b>ASL Number Story</b> Students will create a number story using only handshapes 1-10. The students will combine signing and classifiers to provide a visual story of any theme.</p>	25	4/14
<p><b>Final Project: Storytelling</b> The students will combine all their knowledge from Unit 1-5 and apply ASL storytelling techniques. The students will tell the story to the instructor. This project is due based on one-on-one appointment with the instructor.</p>	100	TBD
<p><b>Deaf Event</b> For this assignment, you will have an opportunity to attend a local Deaf event and write a two-pages reflection paper.</p>	25	5/10

**Course Evaluation:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
Participation/Attendance	250
Assignments (4)	100
Midterm Project	50
Final Project	100
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>500</b>

*\*Dates are tentative*

<b>Grading</b>
<b>A</b> = 450-500
<b>B</b> = 400-449
<b>C</b> = 350-399
<b>D</b> = 300-349
<b>F</b> = less than 300 points