Instructor: Michael Dunham	University of Maryland, College Park Department of Special Education	Course Dates: 8/31/2015-12/9/2015
Room: Tydings 0111	EDSP376 Fundamentals of Sign Language	Time: Monday & Wednesday 3:45 – 5:00 pm 5:00 – 6:15 pm 6:15 – 7:30 pm

Course Syllabus

E-mail: dunhaminc@gmail.com
Office Hours: By appointment
Mailbox: 3214 Benjamin Building

Required Text: Signing Naturally Level 1—Student Workbook and DVD
(Smith, Lenz, & Mikos)
Optional Text: American Sign Language Concise Dictionary
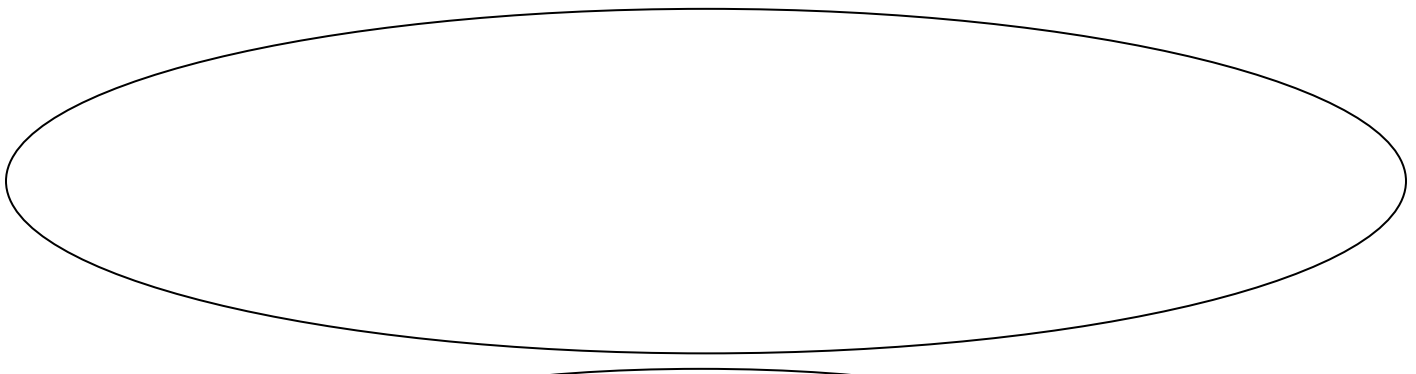(Sternberg)

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 introductory level course is designed to provide students a way to communicate and function 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.
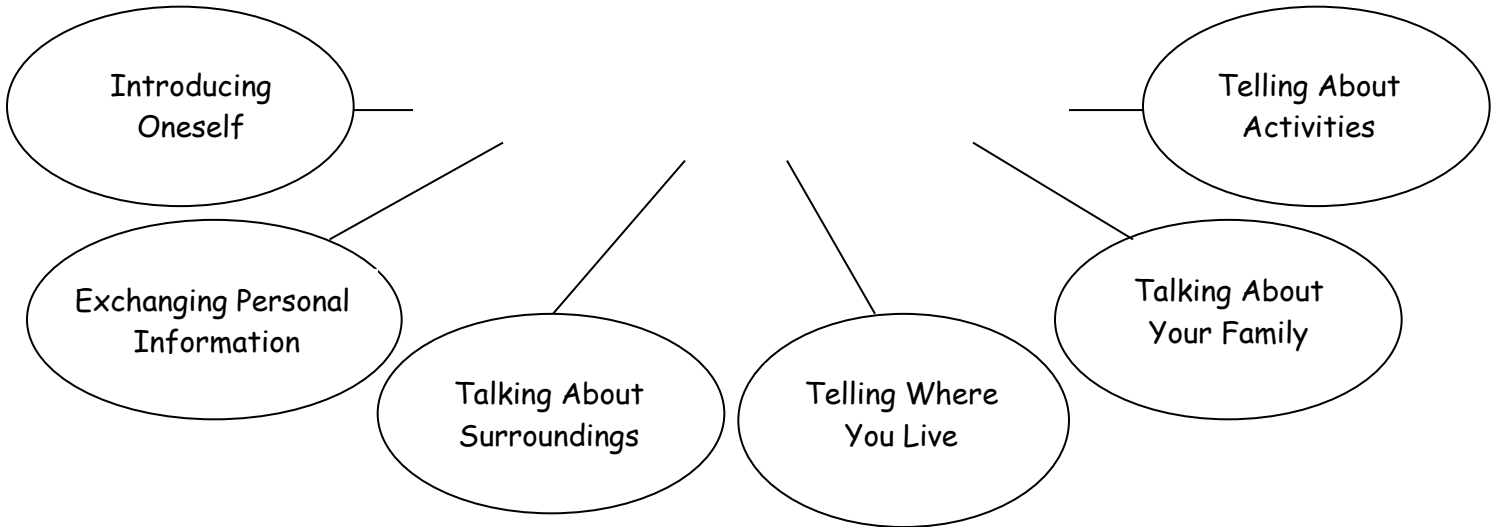
Course Goals & Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Understand and use target sign vocabulary expressively and receptively
2. Describe and distinguish the 5 parameters of a sign
3. Understand the importance of non-manual signals (NMS) in ASL
4. Develop expressive fingerspelling in short words and name
5. Identify technology and assistive devices used by people who are deaf and hard of hearing
6. Know the diverse educational placement options for students who are deaf and hard of hearing
7. Show awareness and respect for Deaf culture

Important Concepts

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*visual-gestural activities   *pronouns   *size & shapes   *negatives
*question types   *verbs   *time concepts   *culture
*number concepts   *NMS   *fingerspelling   *technology

Introducing Oneself

Telling About Activities

Exchanging Personal Information

Talking About Your Family

Talking About Surroundings

Telling Where You Live

Course Expectations & Requirements

Attendance:
- Students are expected to attend class regularly and be on time. Active participation is essential!
- Students are allowed to miss 1 classes **for any reason**. When you miss class for the 4th time, **for any reason**, it will impact your grade. The instructor will deduct 15 points for each class you miss. It is your responsible to keep track of your attendance and tardiness.
- If you miss class, it is your responsibility to consult with your classmates for any notes, assignments, and new signs introduced.

Midterm Exam:
- The mid-term exam is receptive and written. The date may change slightly.
- Class attendance is encouraged to minimize the need for make-ups.
- Requests for make-ups should be arranged in advance and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Assignment:
- 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.

Homework:
- During the semester, homework will be given to reinforce what has been taught in class. The instructor mays 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.
- **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

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/. The Code prohibits students from 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).

Helpful Online Resources:

- www.aslpro.com
- www.lifeprin

Assignments, Exam, & Project Descriptions

Assignment	Points	Due*
SilentTUBE For this assignment, you will watch TV for 30 minutes *without sound* (15 minutes *without* closed captioning; 15 minutes *with* closed captioning). Write a two pages reflection paper on this activity.	25	9/9
HI-TECH Terp During this course, you will learn about the different assistive technology devices that have torn down communication barriers to ensure equal access for deaf and hard of hearing people. This assignment will give you an opportunity to describe this technology in a unique way.	25	10/14
Midterm Exam (date subjects to change)	100	10/26
Deaf Education Profile There are diverse educational placements for deaf and hard of hearing students. For this assignment you will find information on (1) a bilingual-bicultural program, (2) an oral program, (3) a cued-speech program (4) a college/university for deaf and hard of hearing students.	25	11/11
Final Group Project With a classmate, you will develop a 4-5 minute dialogue/presentation to demonstrate what you have learned in this course. You will be graded based on your creativity, clarity, fluency, use of signs/material taught in class, and written gloss of your presentation.	100	12/7 & 12/9
Deaf Event For this assignment, you will have an opportunity to attend a local Deaf event and write a two pages reflection paper.	25	12/9

Course Evaluation:

Assignment	Point Value
Participation/Attendance	200
Assignments (4)	100
Midterm Exam	100
Final Project	100
Total Points	500

*Dates are tentative

Grading

A = 450-500
B = 400-449
C = 350-399
D = 300-349
F = less than 300 points