

San José State University
Connie L. Lurie College of Education, Special Education Department
EDSE 14A – American Sign Language (ASL) Level 1, Spring 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Sandra Amundsen
Office Location:	Sweeney Hall, SH 221
Email:	PrincessASLteacher@gmail.com (Email me with your first and last name, the hour of your class, and the subject line “SJSU ASL 1”)
Office Hours:	Mondays/Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 AM
Class Days/Time:	Section 1: Mondays/Wednesdays 10:30 am to 11:45 AM Section 2: Mondays/Wednesdays 12 noon-1:15 PM
Classroom:	Sweeney Hall, SH 230

Course Description

This course will focus on the naturally acquisition of American Sign Language (ASL) as a basic conversational language. Emphasis will be on increasing student communication abilities. Course will focus on language functions such as family/friend, daily living/calendar, activities, making requests, asking & telling about activities, making plan, tell short stories, and learn about deaf history and culture. Communicative functions, vocabulary, grammar and culture aspects of the Deaf community will be introduced and studies throughout the course.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to do the following:

Receptive skills: understand the vocabulary introduced, recognize facial expressions in the context of ASL, and read beginning level finger spelling.

Expressive skills: Use the vocabulary introduced in a wide variety of situations in the Deaf community, clearly finger spell, use correct facial expressions in a given situation, demonstrate appropriate social behaviors within Deaf community, and establish and maintain basic social relationships in ASL.

Knowledge: Demonstrate understanding of information concerning the Deaf community, its behaviors, values, and issues, and explain specific cultural and social values unique to American Deaf culture.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Communicate thoughts and ideas in ASL at the novice level minimum
2. Observe the instructor during an immersion lesson and will respond to the instructor’s questions with 90% accuracy
3. Recognize fingerspelling names, places, brand names, and titles in basic conversational mode
4. Recognize practices of the target culture and establish relationships between these and the perspectives (attitudes, values, and beliefs) of the target Deaf culture.
5. Understand grammatical structures of ASL
6. Demonstrate receptive and expressive signing skills in using conversational ASL
7. Utilize conceptually accurate signs and idiomatic expressions

8. Demonstrate the ability to initiate, conduct, and terminate short conversations in ASL using appropriate conversational regulators
9. Exhibit receptive and expressive skills in ASL
10. Demonstrate an awareness of Deaf culture through contextual settings in class
11. Language Functions (Signing Naturally)
 - Unit 1: Introducing Oneself
 - Unit 2: Exchanging Personal Information
 - Unit 3: Discussing Living Situations
 - Unit 4: Talking About Family
 - Unit 5: Telling About Activities
 - Unit 6: Storytelling
12. ASL Functional/Cultural Components
 - Rules of introductions
 - Rules of exchanging personal information
 - Rules of describing locations and directions
 - Rules of describing family and relatives
 - Rules of confirmation, negation, and correction of information

Required Texts/Readings

Smith, C., Lentz, E. and Mikos, K (2008) "Signing Naturally, student workbook & DVD, Level 1 Units 1-6"
ISBN 978-1-58121-210-5

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

1. When practicing an interaction in class or when presenting a homework assignment, please do not use signs that we have not learned together. Many of you have some sign skills already, but I ask you not to sign words that I have not yet taught to the class. The reasons for this rule is:
 - The sign you know might not be right
 - The sign you know might be right, but it's not the sign I prefer for you to use in this class
 - The main purpose of this class is to develop receptive skills. If you are using signs that your fellow students don't know, they can't practice their receptive skills. This is not fair to them.
2. No voicing, whispering, or mouthing while signing. If your partner can hear you or read your lips, he or she will not have the opportunity to develop good receptive skills.
3. Never, attempt to speak (or whisper or mouth) English and sign ASL at the same time. It is physically and mentally impossible.
4. No fingerspelling except as instructed (names, cities, etc.) If you don't remember (or I haven't taught) the sign for the word you want, find another way to express it.

Assignments

1. Signing Naturally Student Workbook:

Regular review and study outside the classroom is the most important way for you to learn. During the semester you will have an opportunity to improve your receptive skills by completing Units 1-6 in your workbook using the accompanying DVDs. You are responsible to complete assignments.

Grades are based on the following:

2. Production Exam:
You will videotape yourself telling “Timber Story” and “The Gum Story”. You will get more information later in the semester.
3. Comprehensive Exam:
This is a comprehension exam covering Unit 1-6. The exam tests your ability to understand what is being signed to you.
4. Expressive Final Exam:
You will prepare your own Childhood story using the vocabulary and grammar structure learned in class. The story will be told in front of a group rather than a camera. More specifics guidelines will be given later in the course.

Grading

<u>Exam</u>	<u>Weightage</u>
Comprehensive Exam #1	15%
Production Exam #1	15%
Comprehensive Exam #2	20%
Production Exam #2	20%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Note:

I do not offer extra credit. Please don't ask.

Incomplete will not be given regardless of the reason.

No Make-Up Exams given if you are absent or late. No make-ups without an obituary of a close relative and a copy of the “program” from the service or note on the funeral’s home’s stationary, or a note from your medical professional specifically state that you were too sick to take the exam on that day. If you do have an excused absence, I reserve the right to either give you a new exam, or to substitute the equivalent score of one of your previous or future exams.

1. Do not schedule job hours, doctor appointments, vacation, sports, etc that conflict with class meeting times.
2. No late work will be accepted.
3. Homework is not accepted via e-mail.
4. I do not discuss grades via email. See me before class or make an appointment.

Attendance

Attendance is essential. In order to learn the language well you need regular exposure and practice. Much of your learning will happen in class and it is vital for you to be present and participating to make the progress possible. Each session will build on previous sessions. Please make effort to attend all classes. Your contribution is important. It has been my experience that poor attendance results in poor grade.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Classroom Protocol

Tardy

1. **Please be on time!** Late entrances cause disruptions and distractions from the learning process not only yourself but your fellow classmates. The door will be locked at 10:30 am.
2. Be on time to scheduled exams. Anyone arriving late will not be allowed to take the exams. No exceptions.

Communication

When you enter the door of this classroom you enter a world intended to represent a Deaf signing world. This means that we will rely on visual means to express ourselves rather than verbal. Please keep your voices off for the duration of the class sessions. This also means turn your voice off when you enter the classroom even if the class session has not started.

There are three main reasons for this policy:

1. To experience what it might be like in an environment where people are using a language other than your preferred language.
2. To train your mind to function in a visual environment and gain more fluency in an immersion-like situation
3. To develop awareness in the presence of Deaf people and develop respectful ways of communicating in their presence

Minor Annoyances

1. Chewing gum
2. Eating
3. Sunglasses
4. ASL is a visual language and all of the above listed factors can prove to be distractions from what you have to say. Instead of paying attention to your message, your listener may be paying attention to your smacking gum or they may be unable to see your full expression and meaning hidden underneath your hat or sunglasses.

Cell phones and other electronic devices

Please turn off your cell phone and keep it out of sight during class. Do not leave it on your desk. Also, turn off any other electronic devices (music or video devices). Student will be asked to leave classroom.

Class Buddy

Establish a “class buddy” or three! Exchange phone numbers and email addresses with 3-4 students to practice ASL outside of class. Form permanent study group for the semester. We are a community of learners. You need to work together in this class, get to know one another, and practice together.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90–5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

EDSE 14A-01 & 02 / American Sign Language Level 1, Spring 2016 Course Schedule

Course schedule will be announced in class.

Final exam:

EDSE section 1 : Tuesday, May 24 9:45-12 noon

EDSE section 2: Thursday, May 19 9:45-12 noon