RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE  

ASL 101 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I  

I. Basic Course Information  
A. Course Number and Title: ASL 101 Introduction to American Sign Language I  
B. New or Modified Course: New  
C. Date of Proposal: Spring 2014  
D. Sponsoring Department: Communication, Languages & ESL  
E. Semester Credit Hours: 3  
F. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3  
Laboratory: 1  
G. Prerequisites/Corequisites: None  
H. Laboratory Fees: Yes  
I. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair:  
Kevin Hinkle rhinkle@raritanval.edu  

II. Catalog Description  
Prerequisite: None. Designed exclusively for students with no previous exposure to American Sign Language, this course develops basic signing skills and provides an introduction to Deaf culture and communities. The course is conducted in voice and American Sign Language. Native users of ASL and students with successful completion of two or more years of American Sign Language (within the past 5 years) cannot receive credit for this course. The laboratory component provides self-paced skill development with individualized support by the instructor.  

III. Statement of Course Need  
A. This course provides an introduction to American Sign Language, the third most used language in the United States. This course partially fulfills the language requirement in programs with a language requirement.  

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum  
A. Free Elective
V. Outline of Course Content

A. Topics
   1. Introductions
   2. Personal Information
   3. Surroundings
   4. Home
   5. Family
   6. Activities

B. Vocabulary
   1. Core vocabulary of 300 signs

C. Course Content Areas
   1. Strategies for learning American Sign Language (expressive and receptive)
   2. Basic introduction to communication with the Deaf community
   3. Parameters of a sign
   4. Handshape Morphology
   5. Manual Alphabet
   6. Lexicalized Fingerspelling
   7. Dominant hand and Non-dominant Hand Roles
   8. Time Line and Time Indicators
   9. Spatial Agreement
   10. Agent Markers
   11. Contrastive Structure
   12. Classifiers
   13. Negation
   14. Pronominalization
   15. Size and shape specifiers
   16. Locatives
   17. Pronouns
      a. Personal
      b. Possessive
      c. Plural
      d. Classifier
   18. Verb Types
   19. Noun-verb pairs
   20. Number production
   21. Inflection
   22. Prosody
   23. Sentence Structures
   24. Topicalization
   25. Yes/No questions
   26. WH-word questions
   27. Commands
D. Numbers
   1. Cardinal numbers 1 - 100
   2. Ordinal numbers
   3. Nominal numbers
   4. Time numbers
   5. Money numbers

E. Deaf Culture
   1. Deaf Culture and hearing culture
   2. Social competence
   3. Intercultural communication

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

   Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
   1. Sign at the novice mid-level in ASL. (GE-NJ 1)
   2. Describe people and things accurately (GE-NJ 1)
   3. Ask and answer novice mid-level questions with grammatical accuracy. (GE-NJ 1)
   4. Introduce themselves and exchange personal information in limited social conversations using fingerspelling, basic vocabulary, and special agreement (GE-NJ 1)
   5. Explain cultural patterns within the American Deaf community (GE-NJ 8)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

   See above

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. Voice and non-voiced lecture/discussion/demonstration
B. Small-group work
C. Computer-assisted instruction
D. Guest signers
E. Laboratory
F. Student presentations
G. Simulation/role playing

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. Fingerspelling
B. Signing
C. Receptive translation narrative
D. Spontaneous dialogue
E. Narration
IX. Grade Determinants

A. participation
B. homework
C. journals
D. weekly quizzes
E. group and individual projects
F. exams

X. Texts and Materials

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

XI. Resources

A. Seating that enables all students to see each other
B. Ability to film self and/or others
C. Computer access