RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

ASL 101 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I

I. Basic Course Information

A. ASL 101 Introduction to American Sign Language I

B. Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Spring 2020

D. Effective Term: Fall 2020

E. Communication & Languages

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 4
   Lecture: 3
   Laboratory: 1
   Out of class student work per week: 6.5

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: None.

I. Laboratory Fees: Yes

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Richard Treut, ext. 8429, Bick.Treut@raritanval.edu
Dean Patrice Marks, ext. 8802, Patrice.Marks@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. This course partially fulfills the language requirement in programs with a language requirement.
B. The laboratory component provides self-paced skill development with individualized support by the instructor.
C. This course can transfer as the first semester of an introductory American Sign Language sequence.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities and Foreign Language, Global & Cultural Awareness.
C. This course meets a program requirement for Liberal Arts, AA, Social Sciences, AA, Communication Studies, AA, English, AA, and is a program requirement option in Mathematics, AS.
D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Topics
   1. Introducing oneself
   2. Exchanging personal Information
   3. Discussing Living Situation
   4. Giving Directions
   5. Talking about Family and Relationships
   6. Telling about 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. An introduction to ASL glossing
   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. Age Ranking

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12. Listing Concepts
13. Sequencing Activities
14. Contrastive Structure
15. Classifiers
16. Negation
17. Pronominalization
18. Pronouns
   a. Personal
   b. Possessive
   c. Plural
   d. Classifier
19. Verb Types
20. Noun-verb pairs
21. Number production
   a. Cardinal numbers 1 - 100
   b. Ordinal numbers 1st-9th
   c. Nominal numbers
   d. Time numbers

22. Sentence Structures
23. Topicalization
24. Yes/No questions
25. WH-word questions

D. Deaf Culture
   1. Deaf Culture and hearing culture
      a. Audiogram (Use “For hearing people only“)
      b. Is Deafness genetic
      c. Discuss important Deaf people that have impacted the Deaf community
      d. Different signed languages
      e. Big D vs. Little d
      f. Gallaudet University
      g. The Deaf president now movement
   2. Social competence
      a. Speaking in the presence of a Deaf person
      b. Visual way of living
      c. Maintaining a clear sightline
      d. Negotiating a signers environment
      e. How to get someone’s attention
      f. The difference between being born Deaf to hearing parents and being born Deaf to Deaf parents.
   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 spacial agreement (GE-NJ 1)
   5. Explain cultural patterns within the American Deaf community (GE-NJ 8)

B. **Course Learning Outcomes**
   Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
   1. Sign at the novice mid-level in ASL
   2. Basic description of people and clothing
   3. Ask and answer novice mid-level questions with grammatical accuracy
   4. Introduce themselves and exchange personal information in limited social conversations using fingerspelling, basic vocabulary, and spacial agreement
   5. Explain cultural patterns within the American Deaf community

C. **Assessment Instructions**
   1. fingerspelling
   2. signing
   3. receptive translation narrative
   4. expressive projects
   5. spontaneous dialogue
   6. narration

**VII. Grade Determinants**

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

Primary forms, methods and modes of instruction:
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. Texts and Materials
   A. Signing Naturally-Level 1, Dawn Sign Press

(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.)

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

X. Honors Options: Not Available