

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College**  
**Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** ASL 100

**Credits:** 2

**Course Title:** Orientation to Acquisition of ASL as an Adult

**Course Description:** Presents a brief introduction to the U.S. Deaf Community, focusing on the differences in language and literature. Introduces many common pitfalls experienced by adults when acquiring ASL as a second language. Provides students with experience bridging spoken English and ASL via use of visual-gestural, non-verbal communication. Introduces students to the various ASL and IE curricular options offered at Reynolds. Lecture 2 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** To introduce students to ASL as a foreign language and Deaf people as a community and cultural identity.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

None

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe at least one way in which ASL signers and American English speakers have different perspectives of the same phenomena;
- b. Describe the phenomena known as “foreigner talk” and “contact signing” and how each impacts adults acquiring a second language;
- c. Identify a form of ASL literature for which English has no parallel form, and identify a form of ASL literature for which there is a parallel form in English;
- d. Identify the varying forms of manual communication and identify each as either naturally occurring or contrived forms; and
- e. Describe, in general terms, how ASL developed, including the identification of at least one language to which ASL is linguistically related.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. ASL is the primary language used by members of the U.S. Deaf Community and it is a language separate from English
- b. Manually coded forms of English (MCEs) are contrived and not naturally-occurring forms of communication
- c. The difference between a communicator and an interpreter
- d. Discussion of common pitfalls by adults acquiring ASL
- e. A brief introduction to the literature and history of the U.S. Deaf Community

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** April 10, 2009