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