Deaf Culture and American Sign Language Studies

Division of Humanities and Fine Arts
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Deaf Culture & ASL Studies (DEAF)

DEAF 310 American Sign Language I 4 Units
Prerequisite: None.
General Education: AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 6
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 72 hours LEC
This is the beginning course in a series of four courses in the visual-gestural processes of American Sign Language (ASL). It provides instructional activities for students to become competent in communication with deaf people. The emphasis is on non-speech communication. Credit will be awarded for either SILA 305 or DEAF 310 but not for both. This course is formerly known as SILA 305.

DEAF 312 American Sign Language II 4 Units
Prerequisite: DEAF 310 or SILA 305 with a grade of “C” or better
General Education: AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 6
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 72 hours LEC
This is the second in a series of four courses in American Sign Language. The emphasis is on nonverbal communication. Topics presented include grammatical features such as adjective descriptors, differentiation between cardinal and ordinal numbers, contrastive structure, temporal aspect markers, and temporal sequencing. The emphasis is on non-speech communication. Credit will be awarded for either SILA 306 or DEAF 312 but not for both. This course is formerly known as SILA 306.

DEAF 314 American Sign Language III 4 Units
Prerequisite: DEAF 312 or SILA 306 with a grade of “C” or better
General Education: AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 3B; IGETC Area 6
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 72 hours LEC
This course is the third in a series of four courses in American Sign Language. It emphasizes expressive and receptive nonverbal communication skills between signers who have preliminary American Sign Language syntactical and lexical skills. It provides an understanding of deaf cultural processes by identifying behaviors and norms from activities assigned in the class. It also includes dialogues that involve asking, empathizing, negotiating, and agreeing or disagreeing. The emphasis is on non-speech communication. This course is formerly known as SILA 315. Credit will be awarded for either SILA 315 or DEAF 314 but not for both.

DEAF 316 American Sign Language IV 4 Units
Prerequisite: DEAF 314 or SILA 315 with a grade of “C” or better
General Education: AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C2; IGETC Area 3B; IGETC Area 6
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 72 hours LEC
This is the final course in a series of four courses in American Sign Language. It emphasizes expressive communication skills that involve sharing interesting facts, talking about money, making major life decisions, and narrating unforgettable moments. It incorporates information and activities previously learned about the Deaf into these narratives. Credit will be awarded for either SILA 316 or DEAF 316 but not for both. This course is formerly known as SILA 316.

DEAF 320 Fingerspelling, Classifiers and Numbers .5-1 Units
Prerequisite: DEAF 310 or SILA 305 with a grade of “C” or better
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LAB
This course provides hands-on experiences with fingerspelling, classifiers, and ASL numbers. Topics include expressive and receptive fingerspelling, classifiers and ASL number techniques. This course enables American Sign Language learners to develop, expand, and reinforce hands-on experiences with fingerspelling, classifiers and ASL numbers skills while working independently, in small groups and with media such as DVDs and record video clips in ASL that incorporate fingerspelling. Coursework includes study topics integrated with expressive and receptive fingerspelling, classifiers and ASL numbers techniques. Student may re-enroll for a maximum of 1 unit. This course is graded as Pass/No PASS.

DEAF 351 Introduction to American Deaf Education 3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
Advisory: ENGRD 110 and ENGWR 101 OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320 with grades of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D; IGETC Area 4
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a survey of four institutions that have critical impact on the psycho-social development of Deaf people: family, education, work, and society. It provides awareness and sensitivity to the unique challenges of deafhood and how they influence personal-social and communication competencies of the Deaf person. Selected visits to community events may be required. This course is formerly known as SILA 330. Credit will be awarded for either SILA 330 or DEAF 351 but not for both.
DEAF 352  Introduction to American Deaf Education
3 Units
Prerequisite: DEAF 351 or SILA 330 with a grade of “C” or better
Advisory: ENGRD 110 and ENGWRI 101 OR ESLR 320 and ESLW 320
with grades of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b)
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course surveys topics related to educating Deaf children, adults, and individuals with additional disabilities. It also covers teaching
methods and philosophies, school placement issues, child develop-
ment, and methods of addressing developmental and linguistic stages. Selected visits to a residential Deaf school in Fremont and/or a local
mainstreaming/Deaf program school may be required. This course is
formerly known as SILA 332. Credit will be awarded for either SILA 332
or Deaf 352 but not for both.

DEAF 353  Baby Sign Language
3 Units
Prerequisite: None.
General Education: AA/AS Area I
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course focuses on Baby Sign Language vocabulary, alphabet,
handshape, movement, palm orientation, structure, and grammar.
Students will learn core vocabulary, comprehension, and grammar in
ASL to understand its structure. Students will also be introduced to the
history of the Deaf community and its culture, as well as be exposed to
community resources for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing populations.

DEAF 355  Audism and Inequality of the Deaf
3 Units
Prerequisite: DEAF 351 or SILA 330 with a grade of “C” or better
Advisory: ENGRD 110 and ENGWRI 101 OR ESR 320 and ESRW 320
with grades of “C” or better.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course focuses on topics in the field of race and ethnicity in the
Deaf community. It provides theoretical background and contexts of
audism and oppression. It also covers the contribution of minorities
including Deaf people to the United States as well as the sociological
reasons for inequality of Deaf people in the United States.

DEAF 362  Introduction to Deafhood
3 Units
Prerequisite: Fluency in American Sign Language (ASL), and strong
receptive and expressive skills in ASL without ASL Interpreters.
Advisory: The student needs to have been immersed in the Deaf cul-
ture and the Deaf community to be successful in this course.
General Education: AA/AS Area VI
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
In this course, an in-depth guide to Deaf culture will be presented,
starting from the premise that Deaf culture has an important contri-
bution to make to other academic disciplines and to human lives in
general. Within and outside of Deaf communities, there is a need for
an account of the new concept of Deaf culture, which helps students
or Deaf leaders in the Deaf community to assess its place alongside
work within other minority cultures and multilingual discourses. In this
course, students will assess the concepts of culture on its own terms
and in its many guises and apply these to Deaf communities. In addi-
tion, the students will study the pitfalls that have been created for Deaf
communities by an unthinking adherence to the medical concept of
‘deafness’ and contrast this with the new concept of Deafhood: a pro-
cess by which every Deaf student, family, and adult implicitly explains
their existence in the world to themselves and each other.

DEAF 380  American Sign Language Literature
3 Units
Prerequisite: DEAF 314 or SILA 315 with a grade of “C” or better
General Education: AA/AS Area I
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course introduces American Sign Language (ASL) literature
genres such as folklore and folktales, storytelling, visual vernacular,
personification, classifier story, poetry, ABC and number stories, and
non-fiction narrative. Topics include analyzing and applying ASL usage
in ASL literature genres.