

Health Care ASL

Instructor: Jack Volpe

Course Philosophy:

American Sign Language is like any other language: French, Italian, Spanish, German; however, unlike these languages, ASL has no written form. Nevertheless, ASL is comprised of rich body language and facial expressions. As a vital commodity in Canada, the health care system has its share of contact with Deaf/hard-of-hearing patients. Due to communication barriers, the Deaf community has often struggled with the health care system. This course will teach you the basic steps of developing interactive skills as a health care provider when you face Deaf/hard-of-hearing patients. You will find this course both fun and interesting. Please consider the following suggestions for success:

- 1) **No voice** is allowed in the classroom.
- 2) Come to every class early.
- 3) Choose two or three classmates to form a study group.
- 4) Develop questions to ask your instructor for the class.
- 5) Know the basic alphabet before the first class (see attached).
- 6) Seize every opportunity to interact with members of the Deaf community.
- 7) If you feel like you are behind or lost...ASK!
- 8) SMILE!

Course Objectives:

- 1) To analyze and comprehend ASL fingerspelling, vocabulary, hand-shapes and gestures in order to develop communication skills.
- 2) To understand Deaf/hard-of-hearing patients' experiences in the health care system.
- 3) To gain basic knowledge about the Deaf community and culture.

Class Attendance:

Class attendance is mandatory. We do understand, however, that the circumstances of your life may occasionally prevent you from attending class. To encourage your promptness and attendance over the course, we will regularly give assignments (in-class or homework). In the event of your absence, contact a classmate to find out what took place in class. Absence is not an excuse for late or missing work. Have a back-up plan!

ASL Alphabet:

