

INTRODUCTION TO ASL

(with theatrical focus)

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. ASL Theatre is treasured by the Deaf community due to its natural involvement of gestures and physical expressions. ASL Theatre is more expressive than other theatrical mediums; imagine pantomime delivered with an unspoken language. You will find this class both fun and interesting. Please consider the following suggestions for success:

- 1) Come to every class early.
- 2) No voice is allowed in the classroom.
- 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) Always do your homework.
- 9) SMILE!

Course Objectives:

- 1) Analyze and comprehend ASL fingerspelling, vocabulary, hand-shapes and performances in order to develop and perform stories (with numbers, ABCs and/or hand-shapes).
- 2) To understand ASL Theatre through receptive, expressive and conversational skills.
- 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 assign homework, or in-class work, and we will give pop quizzes.

In the event of your absence, contact a classmate to find out what took place in class and what assignments or homework are due. Absence is not an excuse for late or missing work. Have a back-up plan!

Class Schedule:

The following is a list of topics to be covered. Taking notes in class and practicing at home are recommended.

Week 1	Introduction, Syllabus and Vocabulary
Week 2	ASL Classifiers
Week 3	ASL Storytelling
Week 4	Deaf Culture
Week 5	ASL Theatre

