

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 140 – INSIDE DEAF CULTURE

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course will introduce students to the Deaf community and American Deaf culture. Deaf heritage, values, behaviors, historical perspectives, and the grammar structure of sign language will be examined. American Sign Language (ASL) literature, Deaf artists, social and political influences, and emerging technology for Deaf people will be studied.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Introduction to Deaf culture, heritage, and history
- 2) Language, form and function of ASL
- 3) Hearing families with Deaf children
- 4) Deaf families with hearing children
- 5) Bilingual/Bicultural education for Deaf children
- 6) Deaf artists/film makers/writers that have made significant contributions to the Deaf culture
- 7) Social and political organizations and local chapters for Deaf people
- 8) Values and behaviors unique to Deaf culture

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify what distinguishes the Deaf community from Deaf culture.
- 2) Analyze how cultural conflicts arise from cultural value differences between Deaf people and hearing people.
- 3) Analyze how ASL fits into linguistic patterns of languages.
- 4) Recognize past and present Deaf artists in various artistic mediums.
- 5) Identify the significance of social and political organizations of the Deaf community and their impact on Deaf people's lives.
- 6) Identify the aspects that comprise the Deaf culture.
- 7) Recognize and explain the relationship of Deaf adults as role models to Deaf children.
- 8) Compare and contrast various educational institutions (examples: residential schools, mainstream education, Gallaudet University, Rochester Institute of Technology for the Deaf).
- 9) Explain the history of Deaf culture in the 18th through 21st centuries.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes and exams that measure students' ability to:
 - a. Identify various aspects of Deaf culture and community.
 - b. Analyze ASL linguistic patterns.
 - c. Recognize Deaf artists.
- 2) Exercises, projects and activities that measure students' ability to analyze ASL linguistic patterns.

- 3) Writings that measure students' ability to:
 - a. Compare and contrast American Deaf culture and American hearing culture.
 - b. Report on Deaf organizations political influence.
 - c. Deaf history and education.

Special Materials Required of the Student

Access to internet and video recording software

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom/ASL Lab

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Films and documentaries
- 3) Guest speakers
- 4) Reading and analysis
- 5) Student group and panel discussions
- 6) Role play

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Assigned reading/responses
- 2) Research projects
- 3) Ethnographic interactions

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Gannon, Jack. *Deaf Heritage: A Narrative History of Deaf America*. Gallaudet University Press, 2012.
 - b. Lane, H., R. Hoffmeister and Ben Bahan. *A Journey into the Deaf World*. Dawn Sign Press, 1996. (latest edition)
 - c. Andrews, Gonzalez Avila, Harris and Leigh. *Deaf Culture: Exploring Deaf Communities in The United States* (2nd Edition. Plural Publishing, 2023.
 - d. Lentz, Ella Mae, Mikos, Ken, and Smith, Cherie. *Signing Naturally: Units 7-12*. San Diego: Dawn Sign Press. 2014.
- 2) Supplemental (representative examples are latest editions):
 - a. Wilcox, S. *American Deaf Culture: An Anthology*. Linstok Press, 1989.
 - b. Levitan, L. and M.S. Moore. *For Hearing People Only*. 3rd edition. T.J. Publishers, 2003.
 - c. Ladd, P. *Understanding Deaf Culture: In Search of Deaf Hood*. Multilingual Matters, 2003.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Explain the differences in cultural experiences and identification for varying members of the Deaf community.
- 2) Identify and explain significant historical events that have impacted and shaped Deaf people's lives.
- 3) Explain the value and impact of different languages (ASL and English), signing systems and school placements on Deaf children and teens.
- 4) Explain how laws, technology, and changing societal values and norms have impacted the Deaf community.