



Bergen Community College  
Division of Arts, Humanities and Wellness  
Department of World Languages and Cultures

Course Syllabus  
**Intermediate American Sign Language I**  
**LAN 271**

Semester and year:

Course and Section Number:

Meeting Times:

Location:

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Office Location:

Phone:

Office Hours:

Email:

Mailbox:

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

LAN 271, Intermediate American Sign Language I, expands the students' vocabulary and enhances their expressive and receptive skills through class discussions, pair/group work, simulations, and presentations. The course is conducted entirely in American Sign Language. It includes grammar review and features extensive discussions of Deaf culture. 3 Lectures, 3 credits. Prerequisite: LAN 270 with a grade of C or better. General Education Course.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the course requirements, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate additional expressive & receptive skills to those learned in American Sign Language II by engaging in ASL conversations with correct grammar;
2. Identify & describe the five registers of American Sign Language;
3. Employ non-manual grammar & facial expressions to match the appropriate register;
4. Identify and describe a vocabulary of at least 1,000 signs;
5. Interact with a Deaf person using American Sign Language;
6. Recall & apply the basic linguistics of American Sign Language in presentation format;
7. Practice classroom learning of Deaf Culture by attending numerous Deaf events within the Deaf Community;
8. Explain the etymology of signs.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

Please refer to Grading and Assessment Methods on page 3 of this syllabus.

**COURSE CONTENT AND TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:**

(Note to students: This class schedule is subject to change depending on class progress):

This course is intended to build upon students' knowledge of the rules of American Sign Language, including discourse markers, personal narratives, dynamic equivalencies, non-manual grammar, syntax, classifiers, temporalization, pronominalization, turn-taking, use of space, sentence structure & types, and gesture. This course will also include lessons on Deaf culture, history, and literature.

| Week | Unit/Topic/Assignment   | Student Learning Objectives |
|------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1    | Course Introduction   | 2, 3, 8                     |
|      | Review of American Sign Language II                               | 2, 3, 8                     |
| 2    | Review continued  | 2, 3, and 8                 |
|      | Unit 13 locatives, use of non-dominant hand                       | 1, 3, 4                     |
| 3    | Unit 13 question types  | 1, 3, and 4                 |
|      | Unit 14 temporal signs & conditionals                             | 1, 3, 4                     |
| 4    | Unit 14 ordinal & continuous time settings, related numbers       | 1, 3, 4                     |
|      | Green book (linguistics): temporalization                         | 1, 2, 3, 4                  |
| 5    | Watch video: deaf perspectives      Lab # 1 due                   | 1, 5, and 7                 |
|      | Guest speaker. Deaf culture & history. Receptive skills practice. | 1, 5, 7                     |
| 6    | Presentations (expressive exam)                                   | 1, 2, 3, 6,                 |
|      | Unit 15 possessives   | 1, 3, 4                     |
| 7    | Unit 15 organizing a series of events                             | 1, 3, 4                     |
|      | Green book (linguistics): pluralization                           | 1, 5, 7                     |
| 8    | Review  | 1-8                         |
|      | Mid-Term Exam (written)   | 1-8                         |
|      | SPRING BREAK  |                             |
| 9    | Review exam/presentations. Video: Non-manual grammar;             | 1-7                         |
|      | Lab # 2 due.  |                             |
|      | Unit 16 classifier types  | 1, 3, and 4                 |
| 10   | Unit 16 non-manual markers  | 1, 3, 4                     |
|      | Green book (linguistics): classifiers                             | 1, 5, 7                     |
| 11   | Unit 17 time & duration sign types                                | 1, 3, and 4                 |
|      | Unit 17 temporal signs  | 1, 3, and 4                 |
| 12   | Green book (linguistics): time signs of regulation & duration     | 1, 5, and 7                 |
|      | Video: ABC Stories  | 1, 5, 7                     |
| 13   | Deaf culture & history  | 1, 5, 6, 7, 8               |
|      | Presentations (expressive exam)    All Labs/Observations due.     | 1, 2, 3, 6                  |
| 14   | Research Papers due. Video: Interpreting                          | 1, 5, 7, 8                  |
|      | Green book (linguistics): distributional aspects                  | 1, 5, 7                     |
| 15   | Review  | 1-8                         |
|      | Final Exam (written)  |                             |

### **COURSE TEXTS / OTHER STUDY MATERIALS:**

Required:

- ❖ Signing Naturally II & DVD (ISBN 1-58121-131-7)
- ❖ Charlotte Baker-Shenk & Dennis Cokely, American Sign Language Green Books: A Teacher's Guide to Grammar & Culture (ISBN 0-930323-84-X)
- ❖ Blank full-size VHS videotape or DVD or jump drive

Recommended:

- ❖ Sternberg, M., American Sign Language Dictionary (ISBN 0-06-273634-5)
- ❖ Online dictionaries:

<http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/aslweb/browser.htm>

<http://www.aslpro.com/cgi-bin/aslpro/aslpro>.

### **PREPARATION EXPECTATIONS:**

In support of the above-mentioned goals, students will keep a weekly journal describing their experiences and feelings (this will count towards the class participation grade). Students will attend three Deaf events (i.e., Deaf theater, Deaf club meetings, etc.), and turn in three lab activities (reporting forms will be provided). Students will also be required to give presentations as part of their evaluations. Finally, students will be responsible for a formal paper related to deafness. **Classes will be conducted in American Sign Language only; students will not use their voices to communicate during class time.**

**GRADING, ASSESSMENT METHODS AND GRADE SCALE:**

|                     |     |           |          |
|---------------------|-----|-----------|----------|
| Presentations       | 40% | 90-100= A | 70-76= C |
| Mid-term            | 15% | 87-89= B+ | 60-69= D |
| Final               | 15% | 80-86= B  | 0-59= F  |
| Book Report         | 10% | 77-79= C+ |          |
| Class Participation | 20% |           |          |

Make-ups will only be allowed at the beginning of the next class. These must be arranged with the instructor. Late assignments will not be accepted. If a student is absent, assignments may be emailed to the instructor, or left in his/her box prior to the next class. Work will not be accepted unless specific arrangements are made with the instructor.

**BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATTENDANCE POLICY**

All students are expected to attend class regularly and punctually for every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance & lateness policies & sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be taken at each class session for administration & counseling purposes.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY IN THIS COURSE:**

The study of a World Language necessitates that students attend classes regularly in order to obtain proficiency. Because a significant amount of learning takes place as a result of classroom interactions, students are expected to attend class regularly and to actively participate in every class meeting. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class session. Students absent more than four times will automatically drop one full letter grade (for every four absences). Special circumstances may be discussed with the instructor. Each student is responsible for all material presented. If absent from a class, students are responsible for obtaining materials missed and information on assignments.

**WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES PLACEMENT POLICY**

Students interested in studying a world language at Bergen Community College may choose to either begin a new one or continue the language studied previously. Students who have studied a world language in high school, and have received a grade of B or better, should enroll in the appropriate Bergen course as follows:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Years of study:</b> | <b>Register in:</b>  |
| Up to one year         | Level I courses<br>(e.g., American Sign Language I)                |
| Two years              | Level II courses<br>(e.g., American Sign Language II)              |
| Three or more          | Level III courses<br>(e.g., Intermediate American Sign Language I) |

**STUDENT AND FACULTY SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Services for Students with Disabilities**

A wide variety of services are available to students with documented disabilities through the Office of Special Services (OSS)[Room L-116; (201) 612-5270; [www.bergen.edu/oss](http://www.bergen.edu/oss) ]. OSS is dedicated to serving students with physical, visual, learning, hearing, and psychiatric disabilities. If a student has been classified in high school or had a 504 plan, it is highly recommended that the student contact OSS during the college application process. A more detailed explanation can be found on the College web site [www.bergen.edu](http://www.bergen.edu) Personal information is kept confidential. Examples of the types of accommodations and services include:

Extended test taking time  
Organizational strategies  
Tutoring  
Career counseling  
Adaptive equipment computer labs  
Note takers  
Sign language interpreters

**The Sidney Silverman Library:**

The Sidney Silverman Library is an integral part of the College's educational programs. To support the curriculum, the library acquires, organizes and provides access to a variety of print, media and electronic resources for individual and classroom use. It is open whenever classes are in session and on a reduced schedule when classes are not in session. The library is open to all students, faculty, and the general public. (BCC Catalog)

The library's webpage, [www.bergen.edu/library](http://www.bergen.edu/library) is available for up-to-date information regarding library collections & services.

All of the required texts for the course will be made available on Reserve. Go to the library Circulation Desk for access to the reserved copies.

The library houses the Media Center, where there are several ASL-related movies, as well as the reference area, where students can get help finding books and journals for research.

**GENERAL:**

All students are subject to the rules, regulations and policies set forth in the current Bergen Community College Catalog.