

**Valencia College  
Course Syllabus**

ASL 2140 / American Sign Language I  
Summer 2012  
May 7 – July 31 (Full-Term)  
CRN 33005  
Online

CRN 25198 – Online – Daily!

<p><b>Alyse Suzanne Rasmussen / (407) 951-6229</b> Videoconferencing: Skype: Alyse.Rasmussen (office hours) Posted in Blackboard Mandatory Feedback Sessions by appointment Tuesdays AND/OR Wednesdays</p>	<p>Online Class Meeting Days/Times: Daily Location: Blackboard &amp; Skype Study Groups: 5 Days / Week (recommended) 3 Days / Week (required)</p>
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**Online: MANDATORY Live Group Sessions (30 minutes) will be held on Mondays at 7:30 PM, Wednesdays at 7:30 AM, and Wednesdays at 12:30 PM. You must attend one of these sessions each week. If none of these options work with your schedule, contact the instructor immediately to see if it's possible to arrange an alternative meeting time. These will be signed lessons and they will be held online via Skype. You will need access to a webcam and high-speed internet in order to participate.**

**There may be, as warranted by learner needs/requests, additional feedback sessions (5-15 minutes).**

**You must work with study partners from the course at least 3-6 times per week – 4 hour minimum per week (more is better). You'll spend 3 1/3 hours per week in class. Spend another 2 2/3 hours per week working with your DVD, study partners, exams, etc. This is the absolute **MINIMUM** amount of time you should spend working on this course (2 hours/day). More would be even better.**

**Course Description & Prerequisites**

Introduction to American Sign Language with emphasis on vocabulary used by deaf adults  
Includes introduction to history and culture of deafness in America and linguistic structure and conceptual vocabulary of conversational (expressive and receptive) sign language skills.  
Describes various manual communication systems and philosophies A minimum of C is required if being used to satisfy the General Education.

**Prerequisites: None**

**Course Text and Supplemental Materials**

**Text:**

- Smith, Cheri, Lentz, Ella Mae, and Mikos, Ken. (2008). *Signing Naturally, Level 1, Units 1-6*, San Diego, CA: DawnSignPress. ISBN: 978-1-58121-210-5. [www.dawnsign.com](http://www.dawnsign.com) [SN] \$65.00

NOTE: This book (white with blue) includes a DVD and is available directly from the publisher or at the VCC Bookstore. Please check their website for information on their return and/or refund policies. The older edition (gray with blue lettering) is not appropriate for this course.

- Learners will be responsible for all the content in Units 1-5 and are expected to

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- **Complete all workbook activities** in the SN text and turn in **copies** of the work at the end of each unit along with a copy of your final transcript
  - Learners must watch the DVD and practice signing **daily** with peers. When reviewing completed units, watch the DVD on 1X to simulate natural signing speeds.
  - **Study groups are required** and meetings should be scheduled and attended on a regular basis.
  - **Prior to starting a new unit**, learners must read each unit in the SN text, watch the associated DVD, and look up any new vocabulary using one of the dictionaries mentioned below.
- Valli, Clayton. (2005). *The Gallaudet Dictionary of American Sign Language*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press. ISBN: 1-56368-282-6. [GUD] \$50.00  
NOTE: The Gallaudet Pocket Dictionary is not an appropriate substitute. This text can help you identify vocabulary and see how vocabulary items are related to one another along visual parameters. **Use the DVD more than the text.**

### Supplemental Materials:

Online: <http://learn.valenciacollege.edu> (Content)

- Online, hybrid, and even face-to-face courses require strong computer skills.
- You are expected to attend regularly
  - **Online:** check online at least 5 times per week, schedule virtual or face-to-face meetings with peers daily, check your Blackboard email daily.
- Log in the first day of class to access the online materials.
- Your user name and password are the same ones that you use with Atlas.

Valencia ASL Honor Society (ASL Club) on Face Book

- Will post Deaf and/or Silent events

### Special Equipment and/or Skills:

This online course is both **asynchronous** and synchronous – meaning that we will have scheduled **LIVE** meetings using videoconferencing technology. These mandatory **LIVE** meetings will be spread over 2 days and, whenever possible, over 3 time periods (AM, PM, EVE) to try to accommodate learners. See note at beginning of syllabus for times.

ASL courses often make heavy use of videoed materials. You will need high-speed internet access. If you do not have this capability from your home, you may need to go to your local VCC campus to complete your assignments. Do not try using your cell phones for feedback sessions!

You will also need to use and/or download free software programs<sup>1</sup>.

### Videos:

The ability to create and upload short videos to a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party server is critical. If you do not already have a YouTube account, set one up before the end of the first week of class. Set all videos as UNLISTED!

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

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<sup>1</sup> Be sure to set the privacy settings as high as possible, then share any necessary access data with your instructor and fellow classmates.

**Videoconferencing:**

In order to contact your instructor and/or peers you will need videoconferencing capabilities. Instructor contact information is “alysse.rasmussen” (all lower case) on Skype. You may use other programs, but Skype is mandatory. There will be weekly sessions. There will be online office hours and course sessions.

Skype: [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)

**Danger, Will Robinson!**

Deaf people may choose any form of language they like to communicate with you, but as a part of this course, you are restricted to ASL for the purposes of grading and evaluation. Most online sites contain high levels of Signed English vocabulary which is **not** appropriate for student use in ASL courses. Be selective (and cautious) in your choices if you use these sites.

**Major Learning Outcomes**

- History of ASL
- Audiological v. attitudinal meaning of deaf
- Different manual methods of communication
- S-V-O, Topic-comment, Y/N question, WH-word questions, & negation sentence types
- Number production
- Fingerspelling
- Fingerspelled loan signs
- Use of space

**Valencia Student Core Competencies**

This course seeks to reinforce the following Valencia Student Competencies:

- Think:
  - Analyze data, ideas, patterns, principles, perspectives
  - Employ the facts, formulas, procedures of the discipline
  - Draw well-supported conclusions
  - Revise conclusions consistent with new observations, interpretations, or reasons
- Value:
  - Recognize values as expressed in attitudes, choices, and commitments
  - Evaluate your own and others values from individual, cultural, and global perspectives
- Communicate:
  - Identify your own strengths and need for improvement as a communicator
  - Employ methods of communication appropriate to your audience and purpose
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of your own and others' communication
- Act:
  - Apply disciplinary knowledge, skills, and values to educational and career goals
  - Implement effective problem-solving, decision-making, and goal-setting strategies
  - Respond appropriately to changing circumstances

**Attendance Policy****Online:**

You are expected to sign in to your online course daily (5 days each week) in order to read posts and check for emails and announcements. If you miss more than 2 scheduled **Live Group Sessions and/or Feedback Sessions** (without making special arrangements in writing), you will need to complete the research paper.

In the event that you are unable to check in at least 3 days during a single week, you should contact your professor as soon as possible to indicate the reason.

Regular attendance and regular class participation are significant factors which promote success in college. If you have too many absences, i.e., don't checking in at least 3 days/week and/or skip classes, you may receive a warning that further absences could result in your withdrawal from the course.

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**Excessive absences** are defined as a) not signing in at least 3 days each week, b) not completing assignments for a period of 3 weeks, and/or c) missing 6 or more mandatory online sessions. In the event of excessive absences, the instructor may withdraw you from a course – without your permission. See College Policy: 6Hx28: 4-11 Class Attendance and Grade Records

**Withdrawal Policy**

Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline (see below) will receive a grade of "W." A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member MAY withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy. A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy will receive a grade of "W." Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F." For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=75>.

Part of Term	Withdrawal Deadline (To receive a 'W')
Full	June 29

**"No Show" Status**

Class attendance is required beginning with the first class meeting. If you do not attend the first class meeting, you may be withdrawn from the class as a "no show." If you are withdrawn as a "no show," you will be financially responsible for the class and a "W" will appear on your transcript for the course.

No-Show Reporting Periods	
Full	(Add/Drop Ends May 14) ... May 15-21, 2012

**Important Dates**

Conferences and professional development opportunities can be an important part of your learning experience. If you are planning on attending any of these events, please manage your time accordingly and submit your assignments early.

Silent Weekend	June 28-July 1	Orlando, FL
FAD Wet & Wild	July 21	Orlando, F

College Closed ( Credit Classes Do Not Meet)	
Dates	Memorial Day: May 28 Independence Day: July 4

**Course Assignments**

The final grade for this course will be based on the following:

- 500 = Assignments
  - Discussion Group: Through Deaf Eyes (1-5-3) (50 points)
  - Journals (5 @ 10 points each; 50 points total)
  - Deaf Interaction (100 points)
  - Homework / Workbook Activities (in text, 200 points)
  - Attendance / Participation (100 points) **OR** Research Paper, waived for attendance
- 500 = Exams (5 @ 100 points each)
- Total Points: 1000 points**

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**Unit Homework Posts (20%):**

20% -- The learner will fill out all the activities in his/her workbook and post those saying “answers provided in class” online in order to acquire the feedback. Points (40 points per unit) are scored in “workbook #” columns.

**Assignments (20%):**

5% -- Journals – Part 1: The learner will complete a short Deaf-inspired activity, reflect on it, and respond by writing a short reflective journal (approximately 150-200 words, due 1 week before unit exams). Part 2: The learner will read the work of 5 other learners and respond positively to 3 (due with unit exams)

5% -- Through Deaf Eyes (1-5-3) – The learner will watch a 2 hour documentary, reflect on the content, and post a short reflective journal that talks about what most interested, surprised, or appealed to you (approximately 150-200 words). Read the work of five other learners and respond to three.

10% -- Deaf Interaction – The learner will attend 1 event where ASL is the predominant language, upload picture showing the learner at the event, reflect on the experience, and write a short report. NOTE: If you are in an online class, you are strongly urged to attend as many live ASL / Deaf events as you can find. Having the opportunity to practice with real signers is invaluable!

**Research Paper / Participation (10%):**

Participation points in class and during online sessions will be awarded for a total not to exceed 100 points (includes Research Paper and/or waiver).

10% -- Research Paper (waived for attendance) – The Research Paper is a 15-20 page document. The topic and texts (minimum: 1 academic text and 5-7 current journal articles) must be approved, in writing, prior to beginning the paper. Acceptable topics include ASL, Deaf Culture, and/or issues of relevance / importance to the Deaf community and, thus, must be Deaf-centric, not hearing-centric. [100 points]

Waiver for Research Paper:

**Online course:** If you check in at least 3 times each week, attend the mandatory **live group sessions** and **feedback sessions** (not missing more than 4), the research paper assignment will be waived.

**Exams (50%):**

50% -- Unit Exams – Each exam consists of multiple choice questions, a videoed segment, and reflection on the video.

Pass/Fail -- Exit Exam -- You must earn a score of 70% or better in order to pass. Your grade, when you pass the exit exam, will be determined by your class grades and not the actual exit exam. The Exit Exam may be scheduled as a face-to-face meeting during finals week.

**Grading scale:**

This course uses flat grading. It does not use plus or minus grading.

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

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D = 60 – 69%  
F = Below 60%

### **Makeup Policy for Examinations and All Other Assignments**

All tests must be taken on or before dates assigned. The final examination must be taken on the date published for final examination, if not this will result in a grade of “F” for the semester. No makeup tests are available without the explicit consent of the instructor, which will only be granted in cases of documented emergencies per Valencia College Policy (i.e. jury duty and military service).

There is no make-up for missed assignments. Work ahead.

### **Extra credit:**

A small amount of extra credit work has been provided within the course assignments. These extra credit opportunities must be completed in conjunction with any related assignments and cannot be done “after the fact”.

Attending sanctioned professional development activity such as the conferences mentioned under “Important Dates” may provide a small amount of extra credit as well, but they will require written consent of the instructor and proof of attendance.

No other extra credit options are available.

### **Expected Student Conduct**

Valencia College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or Valencia’s rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

If you have any questions, please refer to Valencia’s Student Code of Conduct Policy:  
<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=180>

### **Academic Dishonesty**

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts or attempted acts of plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, facilitating academic dishonesty, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive.

If you have any questions, please refer to Valencia’s Academic Dishonesty Policy:  
<http://www.valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=193>

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. The East Campus Office is located in Building 5, Room 216.

### **Valencia ID cards**

Valencia ID cards are required for the Library, Testing Center, and IMC usage. No other form of ID at those locations will be accepted. Possession and utilization of a Valencia ID is mandatory to obtain these services.

### **Disclaimer Statement**

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**Weekly Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

ASL 2140 / American Sign Language I  
 Summer 2012  
 May 7 – July 31 (Full-Term)  
 CRN 33005  
 Online

All homework assignments are laid out in the course Learning Map (online).  
 P = Page Number in Signing Naturally Workbook

<b>Wee k</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Goals &amp; Objectives</b>	<b>Assignments (last chance) due Friday Noon!</b>
01	7-MAY	Unit 0		<b>Read Syllabus</b>
			Navigating the course	P00a: Schedule P00b: Deaf Awareness Quiz P00c: Introduction & URL (e) P00d: Email
			Journals: Part 1 due as per calendar; Part 2 response posts due w/in 7 days	P00f: Journal 00
			Signing Naturally, Unit 1 Cardinal Numbers & Fingerspelling	P005 P007
		Unit 1	Facial Grammar -whq	P013
			Fingerspelling & Numbers	P018 P020 P022 P024
02	14-MAY			
			Identifying a Person Spatial Referencing (locatives)	P027 P029
			Commands Attention Getting Behaviors	P031 Journal 1
03	21-MAY		Making Videos for Unit Exam	P034 P035
			Review	P036
			Unit 1 Exam	Exam Unit 1
04	28-MAY	Unit 2	Signing Naturally, Unit 2 Non Manual Markers (NMM)	P053 P057
			Numbers Visualization Techniques NMM: Transitions	P058 P059
			20's Spatial Referencing (Shapes & Symmetry)	P062 P063 P069 P073 Journal 2

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Week	Start Date	Unit	Goals & Objectives	Assignments (last chance) due Friday Noon!
05	4-JUN		Referencing & Descriptions Deaf Culture Strategies	P078 P080 P082
			Review	
			Unit 2 Exam	P090 P091 Exam Unit 2
06	11-JUN	Unit 3	Signing Naturally, Unit 3 Real World Orientation Commands Contrastive Structure & Which	P117 P120
			Basic Directions	P125
			Out of Class Activity	Through Deaf Eyes
			Numbers Spatial Agreement	P129 P133
			Needs Fingerspelling	P134 P137
			Length of Time	P139 P140 P143 P144 Journal 3
07	18-JUN		Spatial Agreement	P148 P149 P151
			Review	P155
			Unit 3 Exam	Exam Unit 3
			March 5-11	
08	25-JUN	Unit 4	Signing Naturally, Unit 4 Contrastive Structure	P179
			Negation	P182
			Ranking Fingerspelling	P185 P191 Journal 4
09	2-JUL		Numbers	P198
			Possessives	P200
			Tag Questions Story Corner Numbers	P202 P205 P206

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Wk	Start Date	Unit	Goals & Objectives	Assignments (last chance) due Friday Noon!
			Story Corner Family	P207 P208 P212
			Review	P213
			Unit 4 Exam	P214 P215 Exam Unit 4 Deaf Interaction 1
10	9-JUL	Unit 5	Signing Naturally, Unit 5 Time	
			Verbs Token Space	P236 P238 P243
			Modals Transitions	P244 P247 P250 P252 Journal 5
11	16-JUL		Frequency	P257 P258 P260
			Frequency	P268 P272
			Review	P278
			Unit 5 Exam	P280 Exam Unit 5
12	23-JUL		Mock Exit Exam	
			Review (comprehensive)	Research Paper (if not waived)
			Free Conversation / Speed Dating	
Wk 15	31-JUL	Final <sup>2</sup>	Exit Exam	Online options include taking with any other ASL 1 Class Dates & Times will be announced

<sup>2</sup> Note, the exit exam consists of 12 sentences which need to be translated (vocabulary check), 18-25 multiple choice questions regarding a story (reading comprehension), and 25 multiple choice questions regarding grammar, culture, and history. An annotated study guide is available on the course website.

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