

**Valencia College
Course Syllabus**

ASL 2300 / Structure of American Sign Language
Summer 2012
May 7 – July 31 (Full-Term)
CRN 33007
Online

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| <p>Alysse Suzanne Rasmussen / (407) 951-6229 Videoconferencing: Skype: Alysse.Rasmussen (office hours) Posted in Blackboard</p> | <p>Class Meeting: Blackboard Days/Times: Check in 5 Days / Week (recommended) 3 Days / Week (required) Location: Online</p> |
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Course Description & Prerequisites

A study of the phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and discourse structure of American Sign Language, with additional discussions of the biological basis of language and communication¹

Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C in ASL 2150 or departmental approval

Course Text and Supplemental Materials

Text:

Valli, Clayton, Lucas, Ceil, and Mulrooney, Kristen J. (2005). *Linguistics of American Sign Language: An Introduction*. 4th Edition. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press. ISBN 1-56368-283-4 \$75.00

Baker-Shenk, Charlotte and Cokely, Dennis. (1991) *A Teacher's Resource Text on Grammar and Culture* Washington, DC: Gallaudet University. ISBN 978-0-930323-85-1 or 093032384X. \$39.95

Supplemental Materials:

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

- Online courses require strong computer skills.
- You are expected to 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.

Required: Valencia ASL Honor Society (ASL Club) on Face Book

- Will post Deaf and/or Silent events

Special Equipment and/or Skills:

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 VALENCIA COLLEGE campus to complete your assignments.

You will also need to use and/or download free software programs².

¹ Formerly: ASL 2611 Structure of American Sign Language

² Be sure to set the privacy settings as high as possible, then share any necessary access data with your instructor and fellow classmates.

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Videos:

The ability to create and upload short videos to a 3rd-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.

YouTube: www.youtube.com

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 office hours.

Skype: www.skype.com

Major Learning Outcomes

- ASL lexicon
- Phonological structure
- Morphological structure
- Syntactic structure
- Sociolinguistic Rules
- ASL discourse

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
 - Integrate ideas and values from different disciplines
 - Draw well-supported conclusions
 - Revise conclusions consistent with new observations, interpretations, or reasons
- Value:
 - Distinguish among personal, ethical, aesthetic, cultural, and scientific values
 - Evaluate your own and others values from individual, cultural, and global perspectives
- Communicate:
 - Employ methods of communication appropriate to your audience and purpose
- Act:
 - Apply disciplinary knowledge, skills, and values to educational and career goals
 - Implement effective problem-solving, decision-making, and goal-setting strategies

Attendance Policy

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. 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 check in at least 3 days/week, you may receive a warning that further absences could result in your withdrawal from the course.

Excessive absences are defined as a) not signing in at least 3 days each week, and / or b) not completing assignments for a period of 3 weeks. 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

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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, FL |

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

Course Assignments

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

- 200 Weekly Video Vlogs (10 @ 10 points; 2 best ASL vlogs @ 50 points each)
- 200 Notes & Discussions (10 @ 20 points each)
- 150 Homework (4 @ 25 + Gloss of Snowmobile 50)
- 150 Capstone Research Paper / Project (draft, 50 points; final, 100 points)
- 100 Quizzes 10 @ 10 points each)
- 200 Exams (Midterm & Final @ 100 points each)

Total Points: 1000 points

Weekly Discussion & Vlog:

10% -- In part one the learner will create, post, and upload a short vlog (2-3 minutes) reflecting on the learning activities of the current week. The goal of these Signed Discussions / Vlogs is to talk about ASL in ASL. There is not right / wrong. Use your best ASL. Please include a brief English synopsis, but the bulk of the post must be in ASL. Read all submissions by other learners and, whenever possible, ask at least one question of at least 3 other learners (in either ASL or English, you pick).

10% -- The learner will select their 2 best ASL vlogs (1 before midterm; 1 after midterm) and submit them for grading. These will be evaluated based on their ASL linguistic content.

20% -- The second part will be longer and may be submitted as single post or as a series of posts (all attached to the same thread). These posts may be written in ASL or English (your choice) and will consist of the notes you take while reading each chapter. The goal of these notes is to identify what you do understand and, more importantly, **to ask about what you do not understand (in English)**. Asking for clarification is the most important

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thing you can do in order to excel in this class. This is new information and a new way of thinking about ASL. It's 100% okay to not understand the material on a first read; it's 100% NOT okay to NOT ask for help when you need it.

Written Assignments:

15%-- Homework from text (Phonology, Morphology, Semantics, Socio-linguistics); Gloss of Snowmobile (from DVD)

15%-- Capstone Research Paper / Project Points – The learner will create an original bilingual work applying what has been learned.

Exams:

10% -- Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each)

20% -- Midterm & Final – 100 points each

Grading scale:

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

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

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>

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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 2300 / Structure of American Sign Language
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 Online

| Week | Start on Monday | Chapter Readings/Topics/ GB = Green Books (thick) Valli = Linguistics of ASL FINISH READINGS BEFORE WEEK STARTS | Assignments Due at MIDNIGHT on Sunday! Note: (X) = optional |
|-------------|------------------------|--|--|
| 01 | 7-MAY | Explore course website GB: xv-xviii, pp 31-77 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vlog-01: Biography [ASL] • 02 What is Language? • Reviews 00 & 01 – Pass/Fail (XA-FL); |
| 02 | 14-MAY | Valli: Part 1: <i>Basic Concepts</i> , 1-14 Online: Introduction & Glossing <i>GB: Transcription Symbols, 1-29</i> GB: Chapter 4-14, familiarize yourself with the content of these chapters and use them to help complete your gloss of <i>SNOWMOBILE</i> (group work) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 What is Linguistics? • (XA-Observe); • Video Vlog |
| 03 | 21-MAY | Valli: Phonology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04 (Basics) • (XR-Accents) • Video Vlog |
| 04 | 28-MAY | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 (Phonology) • Quiz 01: Language • Group work: Homework: SNOWMOBILE • Phonology Homework • (XA-Animals); • Video Vlog |
| 05 | 4-JUN | Valli: Morphology, Part 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 (Creating Words) • Quiz 02: Parameters • (XR-Row) • Video Vlog • 07 (Verbs) • Quiz 03: HMH • (XA-SN-onomatopoeia); • Video Vlog |

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| Week | Start on Monday | Chapter Readings/Topics/ FINISH THESE READINGS BY | Assignments Due at MIDNIGHT on Sunday! |
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| 06 | 11-JUN | Midterm Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 04: NV pairs • 08 (CL Predicates) • (XR-Eye) • Video Vlog • Best Vlog #1 • Midterm: Research Project / Capstone Draft |
| 07 | 18-JUN | Valli: Morphology, Part 2 Syntax | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 05: Fingerspelling • 09 (Aspect) • (XA-Giggles); • Video Vlog • Quiz 06: Phonological Process 1 • 10 (Syntax) • Morphology Homework • (XR-Sequence) • Video Vlog |
| 08 | 25-JUN | Semantics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 07: Phonological Process 2 • 11 (Semantics-1) • (XA-Chaucer); • Video Vlog |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 08: Classifiers • 11 (Semantics-2) • Semantics Homework • (XR-Picnic) • Video Vlog |
| 09 | 2-JUL | Capstone Research Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capstone Research Project |
| 10 | 9-JUL | Language in Use aka Sociolinguistics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 09: Aspect • 13 (Socio-linguistics) |
| 11 | 16-JUL | Language Attrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 10: Semantics • Video Vlog (last date to submit) • 14- Language Attrition • Language in Use / Socio-linguistics Homework • Best Vlog #2 |
| 12 | 23-JUL | Final | Final Exam Closes MONDAY, NOON, 30-JUL |

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