

**Valencia Community College  
Course Syllabus**

ASL 2601 / 1st & 2nd Language Acquisition in ASL  
Spring 2012  
May 9 – July 31 (Full-Term)  
CRN 33009  
Online

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

This course discusses the nature and issues of first and second language acquisition (SLA), the findings of SLA and possible implications in teaching ASL as a native/heritage language and/or a second/world language; outlining issues in ASL/Deaf Studies, second language teaching and offers perspectives into such issues<sup>1</sup>.

**Prerequisites:** Minimum grade of C in ASL 2160 or departmental approval

**Course Text and Supplemental Materials**

**Text:**

- Brown, Douglas H. (2007). *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching*. (5th edition). White Plains, NY: Pearson. ISBN 0131991280 or ISBN 978-0-13-199128-0. \$38.88.

**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 programs<sup>2</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.

<sup>1</sup> Formerly: *EDG 2935 Selected Topics in Education: 1st & 2nd Language Acquisition*

<sup>2</sup> 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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**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com](http://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 online office hours.

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

**Major Learning Outcomes**

- Nature of language
- Disciplines related to language acquisition
- Heritage language
- Bilingualism versus Multilingualism
- First language acquisition and it's stages in Deaf and hearing children
- Second versus foreign language acquisition.
- Review theories in second language acquisition in child populations
- Review theories in second language acquisition in adult populations
- Role of input and interaction in language learning
- Interlanguage
- Methods of Instructed American Sign Language Acquisition

**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:
  - Recognize values as expressed in attitudes, choices, and commitments
  - Distinguish among personal, ethical, aesthetic, cultural, and scientific values
  - Employ values and standards of judgment from different disciplines
  - Evaluate your own and others values from individual, cultural, and global perspectives
  - Articulate a considered and self-determined set of values
- 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
  - Act effectively and appropriately in various personal and professional settings
  - Assess the effectiveness of personal behavior and choices
  - Respond appropriately to changing circumstances

**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

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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, FL

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:

Assignments:

- Weekly Vlogs (10 @ 20 points each; 2 best ASL vlogs @ 50 points each)
- Points of Discussion (10 @ 20 points each)
- Professional Development / TeachASL  
(5 @ 20 points each)

Capstone Audism & Deafhood Final Project (200 points)

Exams (2 @ 100 points each)

**Total Points: 1000 points**

**Weekly Journal / Vlog:**

20% -- The learner will create, post, and upload a minimum of 10 short ASL video logs, aka vlog, (3-5 minutes) responding to specific questions from the learning activities of the current week. Use your best ASL. You may 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).

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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.

**Written Discussions:**

20%-- Discussion Posts, aka Points of Discussion or PoDs (English w/ ASL support as needed) – Each learner will select a minimum of 10 unique topics and write a short (300-500 word) response. Must post one original composition (in either ASL or English, you pick), read all submissions, and, whenever possible, answer or ask at least one question of at least 3 other learners. These are academic discussions, you must have sources, cite sources, and check grammar and spelling.

10%--Monitor TeachASL's listserv (weekly) and contribute 5 posts (asking or answering queries) during the course of the semester.

**Capstone Audism & Deafhood Final Project:**

20%-- The Audism & Deafhood Final project consists of 3 parts. 1) The learner will locate and post at least 6 unique, Deaf-centric Audism links and at least 6 unique, Deaf-centric Deafhood links (60 points). 2) The learner will review all links submitted and create and defend a timeline indicating which link s/he would suggest using in ASL 1, 2, 3, or 4 (100 points). 3) The learner will review all final projects and prepare either a 400-500 written word or 4-5 minute signed presentation discussing the importance of these topics (Audism & Deafhood) in an ASL / Deaf Studies class from the perspective of Language Acquisition studies (40 points).

**Exams:**

20% -- Midterm & Final – Each exam consists of 3 scenarios. The learner will select 1 of the Scenarios and respond as directed. You will find these on the home page and under ASSIGNMENTS.

**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 Community 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”.

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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 Community 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 Community 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 Community 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**

This syllabus may be altered, at the instructor's discretion, during the course of the term. It is the responsibility of the student to make any adjustments as announced.

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**Weekly Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

ASL 2601 / 1st & 2nd Language Acquisition in ASL  
 Summer 2012  
 May 7 – July 31 (Full-Term)  
 CRN 33009  
 Online

<b>Week</b>	<b>Start on Monday</b>	<b>Chapter Readings/Topics/ Online = Learning Module; SLA = textbook FINISH READINGS BEFORE WEEK STARTS</b>	<b>Assignments Due at MIDNIGHT on Sunday!</b>
01	7-MAY	Explore the SLA Online Course Read Brown, Table of Contents and Preface, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric iii-xix Sign up for Skype ( <a href="http://www.skype.com">www.skype.com</a> ) Sign up for TeachASL ( <a href="http://www.teachasl.org">www.teachasl.org</a> or <a href="http://listserv.valenciacollege.edu">http://listserv.valenciacollege.edu</a> ) Begin Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Points of Discussion (PoD) Journal Vlog: Introduce yourself in ASL. Read Brown, Chapter 1	Getting Started, Language, Language Acquisition Vlog-00
02	14-MAY	Read “Getting Your Feet Wet” Module/Folder Post a query or comment on TeachASL Continue Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 1, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 19-20 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 1, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 21-22 Read Brown, Chapter 2	Audism 1 Deafhood 1 POD-01 Vlog-01 TeachASL-01
03	21-MAY	Read “L1” Module/Folder Continue Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 2, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 51-52 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 2, p 53 Read Brown, Chapter 3	Audism 2 Deafhood 2 POD-02 Vlog-02
04	28-MAY	Read the “-isms” Module/Folder Post a query or comment on TeachASL Continue Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 3, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 81-82 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 3 p 83 Read Brown, Chapter 4	Audism 3 Deafhood 3 POD-03 Vlog-03 TeachASL-02
05	4-JUN	Read “L2” Module/Folder	
06	11-JUN	Post a query or comment on TeachASL Continue Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 4, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 114-115 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 4 p 116 Read Brown, Chapter 5	Audism 4 Deafhood 4 POD-04 Vlog-04 TeachASL-03

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Week	Start on Monday	Chapter Readings/Topics/ Online = Learning Module; SLA = textbook <b>FINISH READINGS BEFORE WEEK STARTS</b>	Assignments Due at MIDNIGHT on Sunday!
06		<b>Midterm Week</b>	Midterm Best ASL Vlog #1 Draft Capstone
07	18-JUN	Continue Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 5, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 148-149 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 5 at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 150-151 Read Brown, Chapter 6	POD-05 Vlog-05
08	25-JUN	Post a query or comment on TeachASL Continue Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 6, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 182-184 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 6 at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 185-186 Read Brown, Chapter 7	Audism 5 Deafhood 5 POD-06 Vlog-06 TeachASL-04
09	2-JUL	Continue Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 7, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 214-215 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 7 p 217 Read Brown, Chapter 8	Audism 6 Deafhood 6 POD-07 Vlog-07
		Post a query or comment on TeachASL Continue Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 8, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 243-244 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 8 p 246 Read Brown, Chapter 9 Final Audism & Deafhood Capstone Project	POD-08 Vlog-08 TeachASL-05 Final Capstone Audism/Deafhood
10	9-JUL	Continue Capstone Project: Audism & Deafhood Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 9, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 281-282 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 9 at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 283-284 Read Brown, Chapter 10	POD-09 Vlog-09
11	16-JUL	Complete 1 unique PoD Chapter 10, at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 313-315 Complete Journal Vlog Chapter 10 at least 1 unique Deaf-centric 316-317	POD-10 Vlog-10 Best ASL Vlog #2
12	23-JUL	Online: Review/Reflection: Audism & Deafhood	Reflection
	30-JUL	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam Closes MONDAY, NOON, 30-JUL</b>

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