

SPP 246 BEGINNING SIGN LANGUAGE
Spring 2007

M, W, and F 2:00 - 2:50

Instructor: Dr. James T. McCallum Jr.
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Office Hours

Mon & Wed 11:00 - 12:00, 1:00 - 2:00
Tues & Thurs 10:45 - 11:45, 1:30 - 2:30,
Fri By Appointment Only

This is a basic course in fingerspelling and the language of signs. The historical and philosophical aspects of manual communication will be discussed relative to the major types of manual communication. Special emphasis will be placed on the expressive and receptive use of sign. **This course meets the American Humanics professional development competency for communications and public relations.**

Required Text: Signing Exact English. Modern Signs Press, Inc.,
Los Calamitous, CA

Student Classroom Decorum Expectations

ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF BEFORE ENTERING CLASS! If a cell phone is seen in the class it will result in an unannounced quiz for the class.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE AND ON TIME.

To enhance the learning atmosphere of the classroom, students are expected to dress and behave in a fashion conducive to learning in the classroom. More specifically, students will refrain from disruptive classroom behavior (I. e., talking to classmates, disrespectful responses to teacher instructions; swearing; wearing clothes that impede academic learning such as but not limited to, wearing body-revealing clothing and excessively baggy pants; hats/caps, and/or headdress. Students will turn off telephones prior to entering the classroom. Students who exhibit the behaviors described above, or similar behaviors will be immediately dismissed from class at the third documented offense. The student will be readmitted to class only following a decision by the department chair. The student may appeal the decision of the department chair to the Dean of the College offering the course, and, subsequently, to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and then to the President of Shaw University. The decision of the President will be final. Failure to follow the procedures herein outlined will result in termination of the appeal, and revert to the decision of the department chair.

Each behavior construed by the teacher/professor as no contributive to learning will be recorded, properly documented, and appropriately reported to the student and to the chair of the academic department offering the course. The report will be in written form with a copy provided to both the student and the department chair. The faculty member should retain a copy for his/her own records. Additional student behavior codes may be found in Student Affairs. In keeping with the philosophy of Shaw University, ethical considerations are infused throughout the course. Particular ethics involved with accurate interpreting will be discussed.

Any student caught cheating on an exam will receive an F for that exam.

Course Objectives:

The student will be able to:

1. Explain the basic tenants of manual communication.
2. Describe the major types of manual communication.
3. Sign a 200-word vocabulary (minimum)

Course Outline

Week One: Introduction of the manual alphabet

Week Two: Historical Perspectives/Philosophy of Sign Language,
Modes of Manual Communication and Introduction of signs

Weeks Three Through Twelve: Conversational Speech with Signs

Week Eight: Mid Semester project

Week Twelve: Final Presentation

Evaluation

1. Midterm Examination.....15%
2. Final Examination.....20%
3. Quizzes.....10%
4. "Signing Bee"..... (Each Friday) *.....20%
*** (No make-up will be given)**
5. Mid Semester Project (poem).....15%
6. Finale Presentation* (Song).....15%
*** (Failure to complete results in automatic failure of course)**
7. Class participation/attendance.....5%

Grading Scale

A = 90 - 100

D = 60 - 69

B = 80 - 89

F = 59 and below

C = 70 - 79