

Communication of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired COM 245

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Required Text: *A Basic Course in American Sign Language, 2nd Ed.*, Humphries, Padden, and O'Rourke, 1994.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The course is an overview and survey of a population, which composes the third largest people group in the USA, D/deaf people. This group considers itself to be its own cultural entity and has its own mores and freeways of behavior. We will study “culturally Deaf”, “deaf”, “bi-lingual/bi-cultural”, and “hard-of-hearing”... concepts indicative of persons in this group.

The communication modes found within the Deaf community, between D/deaf and hearing persons, and styles of communication techniques will also be covered. Sign language and other manual systems and their derivations play a major role in the communication in this group. These systems offer significant structure to each facet of D/deafness in the US and other countries.

As a means of understanding the different aspects of deafness and its impact on both hearing and D/deaf people, we will investigate issues relative to this population via speakers, videos, and activities.

The main objectives of this course are:

1. To identify basic terms and vocabulary specific to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.
2. To gain understanding of handicaps and their individual needs.
3. To demonstrate a basic/minimal level of competency using American Sign Language.
4. To participate in an interactive workshop on Deaf issues.
5. To research topics of interest that relate specifically to deafness.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Class Participation and Attendance (75 pts.)

This class is not lecture-based, rather participation-based. Each day's activities will require preparation before class and participation during class. Student presentations, group discussions, quizzes and small group exercises will be incorporated in the study of deafness and D/deaf issues. It is expected that students attend class daily, be punctual, and actively participate in the various activities. **Attendance will be taken daily at the beginning of class. Four or more absences will automatically lower this part of the grade.** Perfect attendance will result in 5 bonus points awarded.

B. Student Presentation (100 pts.)

Each student will present a piece in American Sign Language. While the topic will be decided by the student, i.e., a song, poem, story, etc., the parameters of the presentation will be the same.

C. Journal (45 pts.)

As this class is a survey class, the information presented will have varying degrees of responses and reactions. To afford personal feedback and an opportunity to process class discussion, each student will keep a journal to record impressions of their views and thoughts. While experiences are viable, it is the assimilation of information that will lead to a solid foundation upon which further information may be added. Some weeks may include responses to articles, activities, or speakers.

For the sake of discussion, portions of journals may be read. Anonymity will be preserved. This grade is exclusively for participation. Journals will be due on Thursday each week. It is recommended that you keep entries in a folder or binder and turn in only one page at a time. Handwritten entries are acceptable *if your handwriting is legible*. *** **NOTE: This is the ONLY paper / activity / submission that is accepted as handwritten. ALL other papers MUST be typed.**

D. Annotated Bibliography (100 pts.)

Each student will peruse at least twenty (20) web sites relative to the class topic. This may include assistive technology, other forms of communication, education, interpreters, etc. The project will be to annotate, in bibliographic format, each site. If you do not know how to create a bibliography or write an annotation, find out how to do so now.

E. Final Exam (100 pts.)

The final exam will be a research project on a topic of the student's choice or another performance. You will present a 4-6 minute speech in class during the final exam period.

F. Extracurricular Activities (20 pts. TOTAL)

To build an understanding and gain experience within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community it is expected that students will participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. **The following list is NOT inclusive.** You may find other activities to add to this collection. Or you may create a proposal for a particular experience not included herein. **A minimum of 3 experiences / projects is required to be completed during the semester.** That averages out to be less than one activity per month. Other items may be added to the list as the semester progresses and options become available that are not currently on the calendar. At the completion of an activity, write a response paper on your experiences, and/or how you understand some issue better relative to hearing loss, handicapping conditions, or from a hearing perspective. (REMINDER: IT MUST BE TYPED)

Final grades will be posted on a +/- scale.

94-100	A	77-79	C+	60-63	D-
90-93	A-	74-76	C	<60	F
87-89	B+	70-73	C-		
84-86	B	67-69	D+		
80-83	B-	64-66	D		