ASL 121

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Phone (text)	Office Location & Hours
Dr. Lampra Jones, BS, PhD **University of South Florida- BS in Biomedical Studies and Deaf Studies/ASL** **Life University-PhD in Chiropractic**	ljones7@edisonohio.edu	**404-919-7345**	**By appointment**

Description

American Sign Language (ASL) 121 is a beginning course designed to provide a foundation for non-signers wishing to study ASL and learn about Deaf Culture. It includes techniques for communicating with Deaf individuals using the manual alphabet, numbers, and sign vocabulary. An overview of syntax, grammar, and culture is provided. This course is not designed to train the student to function as an interpreter for the Deaf.

Required Materials

DawnSign Digital Signing Naturally Units 1-6, Student Workbook and Videotext by Smith, Lentz, and Mikos. Dawn Sign Press, 2008.

Learning Objectives

- Appropriately use ASL grammatical features including questions, statements, and spatial agreement
- Recognize the Deaf community as a distinct, cultural entity within American Culture
- Develop basic vocabulary, fingerspelling, and numbering skills with conversational proficiency.

Teaching Strategies

This class will be fully remote/online. Every unit/chapter will have lecture videos done by the professor and/or through the use of video media. **Lecture videos done by myself will not have captions, but will have the powerpoint in the background to understand what I am signing.** Every unit/chapter in your required text, will have instruction videos as well. Students will have the freedom to choose which teaching

strategy suits their needs for the course. **Students will be responsible for any supplemental/additional vocabulary that the professor provides.**

Communication

Due to the nature of the class being fully remote/online, all communication will be done via email or through announcements through Blackboard. If you need to contact me, please email at ljones7@edisionohio.edu **through your school's email. Do not use Blackboard to email due to the fact that I will not receive the email.** Another form of communication you can use is through texting my number at 404-919-7345. If you are texting, please state your name and the class that you are in.

Assignments

Written Assignments:

All written assignments must be prepared in a professional manner and not use AI. The assignment grade will reflect the student's use of Standard English practice. "Professional" is defined by the guidelines stated in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 5th ed. Refer to the Writing and Speaking Rubric. This includes: spelling and punctuation, capitalization, sentence and paragraph structure, grammar, clarity of expression and organization.Be sure you have proofread all of your papers.

Deaf Awareness Assignment:

You will pick one Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deaf, or DeafBlind individual to make a Powerpoint or Google Slides about their life and how they have benefited the Deaf/HoH community, DeafBlind Community, and/or the Disabled community. You should have a minimum of five slides for this project.

Deaf Culture Movie Review:

You will watch the Oscar Winning Short Film, The Silent Child. After watching the film, you write a two page paper detailing and answering the following: discuss the plot, discuss how Libby changed during the movie and why, discuss what you learned from the movie, and what you believe is the reason or moral of the short film.

You can watch with this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GbxFIVQv8c

Student Videos:

After every Unit/Chapter, you will be required to submit a recorded video of yourself to demonstrate your proper signing skills, vocabulary, and expressions. Learning ASL involves not only receptive skills (watching someone sign), but also expressive skills.

Below are the following guidelines for recording your videos:

- You may record anywhere in your home, school, coffee shop, and/or any location
- Videos are always kept private and will only be seen by the professor for grading purposes
- Background noise will not interfere with grading
- Please have good lighting. If you are in a dark area, I can't see your hands and face, which will make grading very difficult

- If you are having a hard time uploading your video to Blackboard, you are welcome to upload and send a link from a third party platform such as: Youtube, We Transfer, Dropbox, and etc.

If you are concerned about submitting videos of yourself for any reason, you MUST contact the instructor immediately to make arrangements for an alternative assignment. Alternative assignments are only available with proof of extenuating circumstances.

Unit/Chapter Tests:

After every Unit/Chapter, you will have a test. Each test will be cumulative. The test will consist of watching a video and answering questions related to the video and/or writing what is being signed to you.

Assignments and Project Standards:

Unit/Chapter assignments will be due every two weeks. Unit/Chapter assignments will be done through the online required textbook.

Assignments not turned in on the designated date will receive a reduction of 30 points per day. Assignments that are four days past the due date will not be accepted and will result in a zero.

If a student is having difficulty with the online textbook and/or the online assignment, the student will need to email the professor as soon as possible.

Extra credit will not be given in this class. There are no assignments to bring a failing grade to a passing grade nor assignments to bring a grade the student's desire.

Testing Policies:

Tests and/or assessments are to be completed on time. If tests and/or assessments are not completed on time it will result in a zero. Cheating will not be tolerated nor accepted. If the professor suspects the student(s), the student(s) will be given a zero on the test as well as potentially zero in the class.

Course Evaluation

Homework / Assignment	*Grade Scale*
Assignments	295
Unit Homework	405

Student Videos (6)	600
Deaf Awareness Powerpoint	100
Deaf Culture Movie Review	100
Unit/Chapter Tests(6)	600
Total Points	2100

Point Value Grading Standards

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C= 70%-79%

D= 60%-69%

F= 50% and below

Course Schedule

Tentative Course Outline

Dates	Material To Be Covered	Assignments
August 24-September 1	Introduction to course 5 parameters of a sign Begin Unit 1	Syllabus Quiz Parameter Quiz Due 8/31 Fingerspelling Assignment Due on 9/1
August 24-September 8	Unit 1	Unit 1 Homework Student Video #1 Due on 9/7 Unit 1 Test Due on 9/8

Sept 7-Sept 22	Unit 2	Unit 2 Homework Student Video #2 Due on 9/21 Unit 2 Test Due on 9/22
Sept 21-Oct 6	Unit 3	Deaf Awareness Month Quiz Due 9/30 Unit 3 Homework Student Video #3 Due 10/5 Unit 3 Test Due 10/6
Oct 5-Oct 20	Unit 4	Unit 4 Homework Student Video #4 Due 10/19 Unit 4 Test Due 10/20
Oct 19-Nov 4	Unit 5	Unit 5 Homework Student Video #5 Due on 11/2 Unit 5 Test Due on 11/3 Deaf Culture Movie Due on 11/4
Nov 2-Nov 24	Unit 6	Unit 6 Homework Student Video #6 Due on 11/23 Unit 6 Test Due on 11/24
Nov 23-Dec 7	Semester ends on December 11th	Deaf Awareness Powerpoint Due on 12/7

Additional Information and Resources

www.lifeprint.com
www.handspeak.com

Academic Integrity:

Edison Community College expects students to submit original work for each assignment. The Student Handbook https://www.edisonohio.edu/digipub/StudentHandbook/index.html, pages 28-29 clearly defines academic dishonesty and how Edison handles cases of academic dishonesty.

Using peer support and tutoring services is not considered academic dishonesty, as long as the work is original and in your own voice, meaning you didn't submit work you did previously or "borrow" words/ideas without crediting the source. The same policy goes for AI-generated text. For example, you may use predictive text to fix spelling errors. You may not tell an AI software to write a critique of an essay for you and copy/paste the text. Any use of AI (outside of spell-checker) must be approved by the instructor and noted with the following at the bottom of the assignment:Any final draft exhibiting the use of AI without permission and crediting the source will be counted as plagiarism. Any assignment that is plagiarized (whether intentional or unintentional) or lacks appropriate citations will automatically receive a failing grade. Intentional submission of someone else's work as your own will result in automatic failure for the course. Whereas, assignments that simply fail to cite in MLA format will have points deducted accordingly.

Technical Support

For Blackboard Assignment issues, the Instructor should be the first point of contact
For Log-in or other technology issues:
There are several steps you can follow if you have issues logging in to Blackboard or Office.
During business hours:
• Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts.
• Reach out for help during regular business hours (9-5 Monday-Thursday, 9-4 Friday)
o email to support@edisonohio.edu
o call 937-778-8600 and ask for IT Help Desk
After hours:
• Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts
*The total does not indicate a passing or failing grade for this course. A valid attempt for all essays (media analysis, feature article, research narrative, and essay critique) is necessary to receive a passing grade to pass the course.
• Go to www.edisonohio.edu into the Resources tab and click "IT Help Desk" then click "Chat".
• Call 937-778-7957 and talk to the off-campus Blackboard company to get help.

Disability Services

If you need accommodations through Disability Services, please contact them immediately to begin the process. Also, you must provide notification to the instructor of your services.

Edison State Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need accommodation based on the impact of

a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact the Office of Disability Services by emailing **disabilities@edisonohio.edu** or by calling 937-778-8600. The Office of Disability Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Student Affairs - Room 160. For additional information, visit the Disability Services web page at www.edisonohio.edu/disability

ADA Accommodations

Edison State Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact the Office of Disability Services by emailing disabilities@edisonohio.edu or by calling 937-778-8600. The Office of Disability Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Room 160. For additional information, visit the Disability Services web page at www.edisonohio.edu/disability.

ACCOMMODATIONS /ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY

Edison State Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact Accessibility and Disability Support Services by emailing accessibilitysupport@edisonohio.edu or by calling 937.381.1548. Accessibility and Disability Support Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Room 160. For additional information, visit the Accessibility and Disability Services page.

TESTING YOUR FAITH ACT POLICY

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/registration-records, located in "Forms" and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/student-resources.