

Austin Community College
SLNG 1317: Introduction to the Deaf Community
Master Syllabus

Course Description

An overview of the physical, educational, social, and cultural implications of deafness and hearing loss within the context of the individual's personal life, family, and community in today's multicultural world. Emphasis is on current educational and vocational programs, legislation, technology, and other issues.

Required Text

- 1) Mindess, A. (2006). *Reading between the signs: Intercultural communication for sign language interpreters* (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Intercultural Press. (ISBN 1-931930-26-0)
- 2) Cerney, B. (2004). *Deaf History Notes*. Rochester, NY: Hand & Mind Publishing. (ISBN 0-9762742-0-5)

Course Objectives

Student will...

1. Define culture and multicultural.
2. Discuss the characteristics of North American deaf/hearing communities.
3. Examine the labels and stereotypes of Deaf people in historical context (cultural vs. pathological perspectives on Deaf people.)
4. Understand behavior and group norms, values, and common knowledge of Deaf people.
5. Identify Deaf community's historical events, person(s), and organizations that impact the Deaf community.
6. Define attitudes and oppression within the Hearing and Deaf communities.
7. List issues currently controversial among members of the Deaf community.
8. Explore the traditions of Deaf people – Deaf history, Deaf folklore, Deaf Art/De'VIA, ASL literature, and Deaf literature.
9. Learn how to work with the Deaf: Teaching, Interpreting & Advocating.

Course Grading System:

1. PowerPoint slides & presentations (5)	20%
2. Video Reaction Papers (2)	10%
3. Midterm	25%
4. Final	25%
5. Participation	10%
6. Self-reflection cultural report	10%

1. PowerPoint slides & presentations (20%, 5 presentations @ 4% each). Your PowerPoint presentation must be uploaded to the *Intro to the Deaf Community* course on ACC's Blackboard Digital Dropbox prior to class time on the due date. You will present your topic in class. See the [PowerPoint presentation handout](#) for more details.

2. Video Reflection Papers (10%, 2 papers @ 5% each). The goal of these assignments is for you to express your own thoughts, opinions or questions (not research papers or summaries). All papers should have one-inch margins on each side; use size-12 font (ie. Time New Roman, Calibri, Arial); double-spaced; black ink; stapled. No papers will be accepted after the due date except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique. A computer mishap will not excuse a late paper.

Video #1 "Sound & Fury"

Write 1 ½ to 2 pages explaining how you felt after watching the movie *Sound & Fury*. Did you agree with anyone involved? Did you think all people involved had valid points? Did this movie change your perspective on cochlear implants? What new insights did you gain from this movie?

Video #2 "Dwarf"

Write 1 ½ to 2 pages paper comparing the culture, oppression, and experiences of little people to that of the Deaf community. How are these two groups similar, how are they different, and what experiences do they share.

3. **Midterm (25%)** – The midterm will cover all material presented to that point of the class. It will include information discussed in class, handouts, articles, videos shown in and out of class, class assignments, and lecture. There will be no make-up of the midterm.
4. **Final Exam (25%)** - Cumulative in nature; it will include comprehension and production, information from the handouts, articles, videos shown in and out of class, class assignments, lecture, and discussions. There will be no make-up of the final.
5. **Participation (10%)** - Class attendance and participation is about 7.7 points daily. Points begin to be counted on August 23. No points are earned on exam days. You should plan to attend class regularly, inasmuch as the material covered in class and participation in class discussion are vital to your performance in this course.
 - a. Each tardiness and early departure of at least 5 minutes from class will be documented. You are allowed to be tardy or exiting early a maximum of three times. Beyond the maximum will result in losing two (2) points for each time you come to class late or leave early.
 - b. The instructor will withdraw any student who is absent three classes.
 - c. Please inform me if you have an exceptional circumstance that causes you to miss class.All students will be encouraged to participate in class discussions and activities on a regular basis. "Participation" does not mean giving "right" answers. It means thinking about the material, sharing your thoughts, paying attention, and giving your best effort.
6. **Self-reflection cultural report (10%)** - Prepare a 4 - 6 page paper (APA format) on your understanding of your cultural identity. How does your cultural identity impact your understanding and behavior as a person outside and/or inside of the deaf community? How have you changed over time? How can you apply what you have learned to your personal/professional life? Have you always felt the way you do now about social justice issues? Be critically self-reflective; demonstrate knowledge of critical theory, social justice, multiculturalism and changing societal demographics.

****No extra credits accept except under circumstances I deem to be extreme or unique.****

Please feel free to call, email or write me notes about any questions or concerns you may have. You may also request to meet with me with an interpreter during my office hours or by appointment.

COURSE POLICIES:

You are responsible for knowing the policies and procedures below. You can pick up a copy of the Student Handbook at a counseling office at any campus or access it online from our web page www.austincc.edu. Please take special note of the following: Policies on Academic Dishonesty, Prohibited Acts, Unattended Children, Children in the Classroom, and Student Discipline Policy.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations:

Refer to the student handbook at www.austincc.edu. Please let me know in writing how I can accommodate my class to your needs.

Students with Disabilities:

Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who need classroom, academic or other accommodations must request them through the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students are encouraged to request accommodations when they register for courses or at least three weeks before the start of the semester, otherwise the provision of accommodations may be delayed.

Students who have received approval for accommodations from OSD for this course must provide the instructor with the 'Notice of Approved Accommodations' from OSD before accommodations will be provided. Arrangement for academic accommodations can only be made after the instructor receives the 'Notice of Approved Accommodations' from the students.

Students with approved accommodations are encouraged to submit the notice of Approved Accommodations to the instructor the beginning of the semester because a reasonable amount of time may be needed to prepare and arrange for the accommodations.

Additional information about the Office for Students with Disabilities is available at

<http://www.austincc.edu/support/osd/>

Withdrawal Policy

You will be withdrawn if you miss 3 consecutive classes. Refer to the student handbook (www.austincc.edu/handbook/) for the withdrawal policy under other circumstances. If you have a very unique or extreme situation, please discuss it with me.

Incompletes

Incompletes will be given only under very unique or extreme circumstances.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

A student attending ACC assumes responsibility for conduct compatible with the mission of the college as an educational institution. Students have the responsibility to submit coursework that is the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, and falsifying documents. Penalties for scholastic dishonesty will depend upon the nature of the violation and may range from lowering a grade on one assignment to an "F" in the course and or expulsion from the college. See the student Standards of Conduct and Disciplinary Process and other policies at <http://www.austincc.edu/current/needtoknow>

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Students at the college have the rights accorded by the U.S. Constitution to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition, and association. These rights carry with them the responsibility to accord the same rights to others in the college community and not to interfere with or disrupt the educational process. Opportunity for students to examine and question pertinent data and assumptions of a given discipline, guided by the evidence of scholarly research, is appropriate in a learning environment. This concept is accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility on the part of the student. As willing partners in learning, students must comply with college rules and procedures.

Safety Statement:

ACC is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. You are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, healthy and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Additional information on these can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/ehs>.

Because some healthy and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the Emergency Procedures poster and Campus Safety Plan map in each classroom. Additional

information about emergency procedures and how to sign up for ACC Emergency Alerts to be notified in the event of a serious emergency can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/emergency/>.

Please note, you are expected to conduct yourself professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual will be dismissed from the day's activity, may be withdrawn from the class, and/or barred from attending future activities

Use of ACC email:

All college e-mail communication to students will be sent solely to the student's ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify you of any college related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive email communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Instructions for activating an ACCmail can be found at <http://www.austincc.edu/accmail/inde.php>