



**School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies**

## **DEAF 101 Introduction to New Zealand Sign Language**

**Course Information Trimester 1, 2009**

### **1. Lecturers**



**Rachel McKee**

*Course Coordinator & Mon lecture*

Office: Von Zedlitz 315

Ph 463 5626

Email: [Rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz)

Office Hours: Tue1-2, Wed 9 -10am



**Sara Pivac Alexander**

*Language classes Tue 9-11 & 1-3, Wed 1-3*

Office: Von Zedlitz 314

Email: [Sara.Pivac@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Sara.Pivac@vuw.ac.nz)

Office Hours: Mon 1-2 and 3-4

### **2. Tutor**



**Darryl Alexander**

*Fri tutorials in VZ003*

Email: [Darryl.Alexander@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Darryl.Alexander@vuw.ac.nz)

Messages & homework: DEAF 101 box, LALS  
Reception VZ 210

### 3. Class times and rooms:

|                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| CRN 8674        | Tues 9.00 – 10.50 (Hunter 324) |
| CRN 10029       | Tues 1.10 – 3.00 (Murphy 404)  |
| CRN 10520       | Wed 1.10 – 3.00 (Hunter 324)   |
| <b>Everyone</b> | Mon 2.10 – 3.00 (Hunter 119)   |

**Tutorials:** Sign up for one slot, at Deaf Studies Noticeboard level 3, Von Zedlitz.

|                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Group A: Fri 9.00 - 9.50   | Group D: Fri 1.10 – 2.00           |
| Group B: Fri 10.00 - 10.50 | Group E: Fri 2.10 – 3.00           |
| Group C: Fri 12.00 – 12.50 | <b>All tuts in VZ003 (level 0)</b> |

Note: **Tutorials start in week 2 of the course (March 13).** If you can't attend your tutorial for a genuine reason, you may attend another session as a replacement. But please notify the tutor in advance by email - so you will not be marked absent at your regular tut.

**Easter:** Good Friday on Friday April 10th. No tutorials on this day.  
**Queens Birthday** on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup>. No lecture on this date.

**4. Course announcements:** On Blackboard & Deaf Studies noticeboard, VZ Level  
Web contact: [www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz)

**5. LALS main office:** VZ 210, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

**6. DEAF 101 Course Administrator:**  
Vivien Trott, Undergraduate admin, VZ210 Ph: 463-5894

### 7. Course Aims

This course offers absolute beginners a guided introduction to conversing in NZSL in everyday social situations with Deaf people. You will be introduced to core vocabulary and basic grammatical structures of NZSL. You will learn about customary ways of interacting in the visual communication environment of the Deaf community. Readings aim to provide background understanding about the structure and use of NZSL. The main goal of this course is to develop a foundation of comprehension of NZSL and basic conversational skills.

### 8. Course Delivery

Classes are taught in an interactive way that aims to build confidence in communicating. Your participation in the group is important for creating a language learning environment that is fun and effective. The two-hour class and tutorial sessions in the AV lab will be conducted in sign language only, with a Deaf tutor – *please leave your voice outside!* Learning in a sign-only environment will help you develop skills in a visual language more quickly. There will be opportunity for questions and explanation in spoken English during the one-hour Monday class with a hearing lecturer.

## 9. Learning Objectives

*Students who pass this course will be able to understand and use appropriate sign vocabulary and basic grammatical structures to do the following in NZSL:*

1. Greet and take leave appropriately in a signed conversation
2. Make introductions and exchange personal information in a short conversation
3. Describe family members and relationships
4. Identify familiar objects and locations in the immediate environment
5. Make and respond to requests for basic wants and needs
6. Give and understand directions to a nearby location
7. Use Deaf conversation behaviours for starting and maintaining a conversation
8. Describe personal appearance
9. Talk about routine daily activities and basic time concepts
10. Understand and use numbers for counting
11. Understand and use fingerspelling for names in the context of NZSL
12. Use the Dictionary of NZSL to find sign vocabulary

*Students will also be able to:*

13. Explain important events and attitudes affecting the history of NZSL
14. Identify key values and experiences in a cultural understanding of being Deaf.

## 10. Materials

### **Required:**

1. *NZSL Student DVD (Units 1-6)* (Available at VicBooks; also held at Language Learning Centre, and Library AV suite, call number VIS 3127)
2. *DEAF 101 Units 1-6 Videotext Workbook*. (Available at Student Notes)
3. *DEAF 101 Readings* (Available at Student Notes)

See Language Learning Centre (LLC) catalogue for additional video materials.

### **Recommended:**

1. *New Zealand Sign Language: A Guide for Learners*, McKee & McKee, Revised Version 2007 (Available at VicBooks).
2. *A Concise Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language* Kennedy, G. et al (Eds). Bridget Williams Books 2002. (Available at VUW bookshop & major booksellers)
3. *How to Learn Another Language: Insights for Successful Language Learning* . Sara Cotterall & Alison Hoffman. VUW. (Available at Student Notes, \$3.00)

### **Other relevant reading/viewing:**

*The Art of Signing* 30 min TVNZ documentary about NZSL (screened April 2000) (LLC and VUW library AV suite, 9<sup>th</sup> floor)

*In a Small Valley* 1 hr documentary video about an Australian Deaf artist - also covers issues about Deaf community, culture and sign language in Australia. (VUW library, AV suite, 9<sup>th</sup> floor)

See *What I Mean* Horrocks, Shirley (Producer/Director) (1992), Point of View Productions Ltd. 1 hr TV documentary about NZ Deaf and Hearing Impaired people and their perspectives . (LLC and VUW Library AV suite)

*Story time in Sign [4 video volumes]* (VUW library AV suite, Call mark VIS 3181)

*Deaf in America : Voices from a culture.* (1988). Padden, C & Humphries, T. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard Univ. Press 1988. (VUW library, Call mark HV2545 P123D)

*For hearing people only: answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about the deaf community, its culture, and the "deaf reality "*. Moore, M. S. & Levitan, L. Rochester, N.Y., Deaf Life Press, 1993. (VUW library, Call Mark HV2545 M823 F)

*A Journey into the Deaf-World.* (1996). Lane, H., Hoffmeister, R., & Bahan, B. San Diego: DawnSignPress.

*Seeing Voices: A Journey into the World of the Deaf.* Sacks, Oliver. University of California Press, 1989. (VUW library. Call mark HV2370 S119 S 1990)

## **11. Assessment requirements**

Your work in the course will be internally assessed in class as follows:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Test 1 (in class March 24,25 )        | 10% |
| 2. Test 2 (in class April 28, 29)        | 10% |
| 3. Test 3 (in tut May 15)                | 25% |
| 4. Test 4 (in tut June 5th)              | 45% |
| 5. Written assignment 750 words (May 18) | 10% |

- Details about test content will be provided in class and Blackboard a week prior.
- *Tests will not be repeated.* It is essential to attend all scheduled test sessions.
- Written assignment instructions will be distributed in class and on Blackboard.
- If you need special accommodations or support in relation to assessments, please talk to course co-ordinator, Rachel McKee, as early as possible.

## 12. Relationship between assessment and course objectives

Regular assessment encourages you to review what you have learned and provides feedback on your progress towards learning objectives 1-12. Tests 1 and 2 will assess receptive comprehension skills only. Tests 3 and 4 will assess receptive and expressive signing skills, and will include a recording of your signing. Tests will assess your mastery of the vocabulary and grammar structures taught in classes and tutorials, up until the time of each test. A written assignment (instructions to be distributed in class) will require analysis of course materials relating to the Deaf community, linked to learning objectives 13 and 14.

## 13. Penalties

Late assignments may not be marked unless a medical certificate is provided, or other genuine circumstances are discussed with Rachel McKee *before* the due date.

**N.B.** Note that if no work is submitted for assessment before the last three weeks of teaching, there will be nothing on which to base an aegrotat consideration.

## 14. Mandatory Attendance and Course Requirements

Face-to-face interaction is essential to learning NZSL, because this is a non-written language which cannot easily be learned by independent text-based work. New language that is introduced and practised in your 2-hour class cannot be easily caught up if you miss a class. Your presence and participation also contributes to building the learning community of your class group. Therefore, your attendance and participation at ALL scheduled language classes and tutorials is expected, and will be recorded. Regular study and practice is essential for effective language learning, so completion and hand-in of all video tasks (homework) is required as a minimum. To receive a final grade for this course, students must

- Complete all assessment tasks listed above (4 practical tests and written assignment).
- **Attend at least 10 out of 12 of the 2 hr language classes.** Full class attendance is expected, and will be recorded at each session.
- **Attend at least 8 out of 10 tutorials.** Full tutorial attendance is expected, and will be recorded at each session.
- Hand in self-marked video workbooks weekly, as per instructions attached.
- Lecture attendance (Monday) is not recorded, but your attendance will support the learning you do in other sessions, and will relate to the written assignment
- Absences (beyond the minimum attendance requirements) due to illness or other unexpected crisis should be discussed with the course coordinator.

*Note:* students who do not meet course attendance and assessment requirements are liable to receive a no-pass grade (K) for this course.

## 15. Workload

Students can expect to do approximately 10-12 hours of work per week to make good progress in this course. This includes 3 hours of classes, 1 hour of tutorial, assigned homework, and independent study.

## 16. GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

### Academic integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. It is **prohibited** at VUW. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.*

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. Find out about how to avoid plagiarism at: [www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html).

#### ***Plagiarism is not worth the risk.***

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct ([www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct)) and may be penalized severely.

Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

### Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

telephone: 463-6070

email: [disability@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:disability@vuw.ac.nz)

The School's Disability Liaison Person is Dr Diane Bardsley, ph 463 5644

## DEAF 101: Introduction to NZSL

### Weekly Homework Tasks

- This is a schedule of weekly tasks that you are required to complete in the NZSL Units 1-6 Student Videotext Workbook.
- Some tasks are from the *NZSL PRACTICE TAPE 1*, also on the reswin server as digital files (*DEAF 101*), held in the LLC and the Library AV suite. Worksheets for these will be given out in class. These tasks are labelled below as ‘PracTape’.
- All completed video homework (your answers) must be marked by you in a contrasting colour. Answers are in the back of the workbook.
- Hand in your workbook pages (named please!) weekly at your tutorial.
- **Timely hand-in of this work is required to pass the course.**

| Week/<br>hand-in<br>date | Class Topic                     | Video Tasks  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 2 Mar 13                 | Introductions                   | <b>Unit 1 Conversations 1,2,3:</b> p 15 -16  |
| 3 Mar 20                 | Personal information            | <b>Unit 1 Introductions</b> p 14-15<br><i>Numbers 1-10</i> p 20-21<br><i>Grammar Yes/No Questions:</i> p 24-25<br><i>Fingerspelling</i> p 6-10 (watch in <b>Unit 4</b> on DVD) |
| 4 Mar 27                 | Personal information            | <i>Grammar: Wh question:</i> p 25-28<br><b>Unit 2 Conversations 1,2:</b> p 33-34<br><i>Grammar: Which Hand?</i> p 38-40  |
| 5 Apr 3                  | Giving Directions               | <b>Unit 3 Conversation 1,2</b> p 47<br><i>Numbers 11-20</i> p 54-55<br><b>PracTape:</b> <i>Locating Places</i><br><b>PracTape:</b> <i>Conversation strategies</i> (watch)      |
| 6 Apr 9                  | Giving Directions               | <b>Unit 4 Conversation 1:</b> p 63<br><b>PracTape:</b> <i>Fingerspelling Months and Foods</i>  |
| April<br>13 – 24         | Mid-trimester Break             | Study suggestions: Review units 1-4; <b>PracTape:</b> Introductions, Colours, Holidays, Joke Timber.<br><i>Explore NZSL resources in LLC.</i>                                  |
| 7 May 1                  | Living & Travelling<br>[Test 2] | <b>Unit 4 Conversation 2, 3</b> p 64 – 65<br><b>PracTape:</b> Douglas’ Keys<br><b>PracTape:</b> <i>Fingerspelling Female &amp; Male Names</i>                                  |

|                  |                                      |   |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>8 May 8</b>   | Travel/ Family                       | <b>Unit 5 Conversation 1</b> , p 73<br><i>Stories 1, 2</i> p 74<br><b>PracTape:</b> <i>Family update</i>  |
| <b>9 May 15</b>  | Family [Test 3]                      | <b>Unit 5 Stories 3, 4, 5</b> p75-76<br><i>Conversation 2</i> p 82<br><i>Communication Behaviours</i> p 98-100 (Watch)  |
| <b>10 May 22</b> | Family cont'd                        | <b>Unit 5 Stories 6,7,8, 9</b> p 81<br><b>PracTape:</b> <i>Activities (What did they decide?) 1,2,3</i><br><i>Contrasting &amp; Referring</i> p 82-83 (Watch)<br><i>Negative Statements</i> p 83-85 (Watch) |
| <b>11 May 29</b> | Talking about Activities             | <b>Unit 6 Narratives 1- 9</b> p87 -88<br><i>Conversation (Apologies)</i> p 88<br><i>Time concepts, Days &amp; Months</i> p 95-97 (Watch)<br><b>PracTape:</b> <i>Making Plans Conv 1, 2</i>                  |
| <b>12 Jun 5</b>  | Talking about Activities<br>[Test 4] |   |

## Additional language practice

- The **NZSL Practice Tape 1** /also held as **DEAF101 Digital Files (on Reswin server)** is available in the LLC and Library AV suite (9<sup>th</sup> floor) for independent study. Worksheets for most of the topics are in your course readings book.
- The LLC and Library AV suite (9<sup>th</sup> floor) also hold other NZSL videos at a beginner level. We encourage you to explore their resources listed under DEAF 101. Watching a range of signers can build your vocabulary and comprehension skills, even if you don't understand everything you see.