



School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

DEAF 101 Introduction to New Zealand Sign Language

Course Information Trimester 1, 2010

1. Trimester dates

Teaching dates 1 March 2010 - 4 June 2010
Mid-trimester break 5 April - 18 April 2010
Final assessment in this course Week 12, June 4 2010 (no external exams)

2. Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenroll/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

3. Lecturers



Rachel McKee
Course Coordinator & Mon lecture

Office: Von Zedlitz 317
Ph 463 5626
Email: Rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hour: Mon 11- 12.30



Sara Pivac Alexander
Language classes

Office: Von Zedlitz 314
Email: Sara.Pivac@vuw.ac.nz
Office Hour: Wed 3.10 - 4.30

Lab tutor



David McKee

Fri tutorials in VZ003

Office VZ 316

Email: david.mckee@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hour Tues 11 - 12.30

Homework: DEAF 101 box, LALS reception VZ 210

4. Class times and rooms:

All streams	Mon 10.00 -10.50 (Hunter 119)
CRN 8674	Tues 12.10 – 2.00 (Easterfield 001)
CRN 10029	Tues 3.10 – 5.00 (Easterfield 001)
CRN 10520	Wed 1.10 – 3.00 (Easterfield 001)

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

<i>Group A:</i> Fri 9.00 - 9.50	<i>Group C:</i> Fri 1.10 – 2.00
<i>Group B:</i> Fri 10.00 - 10.50	<i>Group D:</i> Fri 2.10 – 3.00

All tutorials in Language Learning Centre, Von Zedlitz 003 (level 0)

Note: **Tutorials start in week 1 of the course (Friday March 5).**

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 2nd. No tutorials on this day.

5. Course announcements: On Blackboard www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz and by email to VUW student addresses

6. LALS main office: VZ 210, 2nd floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

7. Course Aims

This course offers absolute beginners a guided introduction to conversing in NZSL in everyday situations with Deaf people. You will be introduced to core vocabulary and basic grammar of NZSL. You will learn about customary ways of interacting in the visual communication environment of the Deaf community. Readings will provide background understanding about the structure and use of NZSL. The main goal of this course is to develop a foundation of comprehension 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 – *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 key historical and cultural factors in the formation of a Deaf community

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)

Please check Blackboard each week for supporting class materials – including key vocabulary, and lecture handouts

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)
See Online version of Dictionary: <http://homepages.mcs.vuw.ac.nz/~pondy/nzsl/>
3. *How to Learn Another Language: Insights for Successful Language Learning* . Sara Cotterall & Alison Hoffman. VUW. (Available at Student Notes)

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

NZSL resources for independent study

- The Language Learning Centre (LLC) in Von Zedlitz level 0 has a good collection of NZSL related materials. LLC staff can help you use their catalogue to locate materials. *LLC holdings are not in the main VUW library catalogue.*
- For online NZSL practice activities, see **Volume 1 of Beginner Exercises**:
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/edith_dev/nzsl/index.htm
- The main library AV Suite (level 9) also has additional Deaf materials. See 'Resources' in : <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/library/services/audiovisual/index.aspx>

Selected materials relevant to DEAF 101

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

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

Your work in the course will be internally assessed through the following tasks:

1. Test 1 (in class March 23,24)	10%
2. Test 2 (in class April 27, 28)	10%
3. Test 3 (in tut May 14)	25%
4. Test 4 (in tut June 4th)	45%
5. Written assignment, 800 words (May 17)	10%

- Details of 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.
- An aegrotat pass will normally be approved only when a candidate has completed at least 30% of the course assessment.

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 objective 13.

13. Grade Scale

The scale for all course grades in DEAF 101 is as follows*:

A+	91 -100 %	Excellent performance in all respects
A	85 - 90 %	Excellent performance in almost all respects
A-	80 - 84 %	Very good, some aspects excellent but others not
B+	75 - 79 %	
B	70 - 74 %	Good performance overall
B-	65 – 69 %	
C+	60 – 64 %	Work satisfactory overall, strengths outweigh weaknesses
C	50 - 59 %	
D	40 - 49 %	Poor performance overall, weaknesses outweigh strengths
E	0 - 39 %	Well below the standard required
K	Fail due to not satisfying mandatory course requirements, even though the student's course mark reached the 50% level specified for a pass	

** Percentage levels for grades B+ and above differ from the general VUW grade scale. Language tests in DEAF 101 are designed to measure mastery of specific language objectives that have been taught and practised in class. In general, students achieve higher and more similar scores on these types of tests than in open-ended assessment tasks, such as composition. For this reason, the points bands for B+ to A+ grades are set slightly higher, to appropriately differentiate levels of performance.*

14. 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.

15. Mandatory Attendance and Course Requirements

Face-to-face interaction is essential to learning NZSL. 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 helps maintain 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 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 9 out of 11 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 practical sessions, and supports 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.

16. 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.

17. 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>

The AVC(Academic) 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. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Class representative policy:

<http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphoral/~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~00000000803.pdf>

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

18. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as 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, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

19. 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

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