

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
CERTIFICATE IN DEAF STUDIES: TEACHING NZSL

DEAF 803 Introduction to Learning Sign Language

Course Information 2010

1. Course Coordinator:

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2. Staff: Lecturers

David McKee
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<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/dsru>



Guest lecturers Sara Pivac Alexander, Darryl Alexander, Bridget Ferguson

3. Class times and rooms:

Teaching Block: Nov 22 - 26, 2010 (Monday to Friday)
Class hours: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm, (except Friday, end 2.00 pm)
Room: AM103

4. Announcements: In class

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

6. Aims

This course will give students an understanding of processes and principles in first and second language acquisition, with a focus on learning and teaching sign language. Students will become aware of the factors that affect language learning by adults in second language classrooms. Course activities will include lecture, discussion, a second language learning experience, an NZSL learner panel, and assessment tasks. These experiences will help students develop a theoretical and practical understanding of language learning processes, which can be applied to teaching NZSL.

7. Learning Objectives

Students who pass this course will be able to –

1. Identify stages and principles of first language acquisition
2. Identify key factors and processes in second language learning for adults
3. Identify characteristics of adult second language learners and implications for NZSL teachers
4. Describe teaching principles and strategies that help adults learn sign language effectively

8. Course Content

The course will cover the following topics:

- How children acquire a first language - spoken or signed
- Principles and factors in second language learning
- Development of language competence in second language learners
- Learner characteristics
- Conditions and strategies that help or hinder adults learning sign language

9. Materials

Course text DEAF 803 Course Book and DVD
(Distributed in class)

Further reading

How Languages are Learned P.M. Lightbown & N. Spada. Oxford University Press 1993

How to Learn Another Language: Insights for successful language learning. S. Cotterall & A. Hoffman. Language Resource Centre, VUW. (Available from Student Notes Centre).

Part 3 in *An Introduction to language and learning.* M. Emmitt, J. Pollock, & L. Limbrick. Oxford University Press, Auckland 1996.

Teaching Vocabulary; Strategies and Techniques. I.S.P. Nation, Heinle, 2008.

Language Learning: Insights for learners, teachers and researchers. Andrew D. Cohen. Heinle, 1990

10. Assessment

Your work in the course will be internally assessed by three pieces of work:

1. Assignment 1	(7-10 mins, in NZSL)	20%	Record in lab, Fri Nov 26
2. Take-home test	(short answers, in NZSL or written)	45%	Fri Dec 17, 2010
3. Assignment 2	(8-10 mins, in NZSL or written)	35%	Fri Jan 21, 2011

11. Relationship between assessment and course objectives:

Assessment in DEAF 803 will help you review and show what you have learned in the course. The final grade is based on three pieces of work that assess how well you can understand and explain information about language learning and apply it to the situation of NZSL learners. *Assignment details will be explained in class.*

Assignment 1 relates to learning objectives 2 and 3, **Assignment 2** relates to objectives 4. The take-home test relates to objectives 1-4.

12. Penalties

Assignments handed in late may be penalised (marked down half a grade) unless a medical certificate is provided in the case of illness, or other genuine circumstances are explained to the course lecturer before the due date. *If you are having problems with an assignment, please contact Rachel or David for help before the due date.*

13. Workload

Students can expect to do an average of 200 hours of work to succeed in this course. This includes 35 hours of class time, review of class work, independent study, doing assignments.

14. Attendance and Mandatory Course Requirements

Students must attend 8 half-days out of 10, and complete all three assessment tasks to fulfill the mandatory course requirements for this course.

15. 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

16. 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>

17. Class representative policy:

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.

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