

## School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

### DEAF 101 Introduction to New Zealand Sign Language

#### Trimester 1, 2011

28 February to 2 July 2011

#### 1. Trimester dates

Teaching dates	28 February to 3 June 2011
Mid-trimester break	18 April to 1 May 2011
Final assessment	In classes, wk 12, May 30 - June 3, 2011 (no exams)

#### 2. Withdrawal dates

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

#### 3. Lecturers



##### **Dr Rachel McKee**

*Course Coordinator & Mon lecture*

Office: Von Zedlitz 317

Ph 463 5626

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

Office Hour: Mon 12– 1



##### **Dr David McKee**

*All language classes*

Office VZ 316

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

Office Hour: Thurs 11 - 12

## Lab tutor



## Mark Berry

Tutorials in VZ003

Office VZ 314

Homework: DEAF 101 box, LALS reception VZ 210

### 4. Class times and rooms: *(please note your CRN/stream number)*

<b>All streams</b>	Mon 11.00 -11.50 (Hunter 119)
and	
CRN 10520	Tues 12.10 – 2.00 (New Kirk 204)
CRN 8674	Wed 11.00 – 12.50 (New Kirk 203)
CRN10029	Wed 2.10 – 4.00 (EA026)

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

Group A: Thurs 3.10 - 4.00 pm	Group C: Fri 10.00 - 10.50am
Group B: Thurs 4.10 – 5.00 pm	Group D: Fri 11.00 - 11.50am

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

Note: Tutorials start in week 2 of the course (Thur/Fri March 10/11).

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.

**5. Course announcements:** On Blackboard [www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz) and by email to VUW student addresses

**6. LALS Administration:** VZ 210, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade  
Vivien Trott, Undergraduate administration Tel: 463 5255, Fax: 463 5604  
[vivien.trott@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:vivien.trott@vuw.ac.nz)

### 7. Course Aims

A beginners' course in NZSL, emphasising acquisition of basic receptive and expressive skills in sign language for everyday conversations. The course also includes information about aspects of grammatical structure and Deaf community and culture.

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 an effective and enjoyable language learning environment. 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 & workbook (Units 1-6)* (Available at VicBooks; also held at Language Learning Centre, and Library AV suite, call number VIS 3127)
2. *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)

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 3 of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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/lc/edith\\_dev/nzsl/index.htm](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lc/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, 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)

*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 22,23)             | 10% of grade |
| 2. Test 2 (in class April 26, 27)            | 10% of grade |
| 3. Test 3 (in tut May 12,13)                 | 25% of grade |
| 4. Test 4 (in class & tut, week of May 30th) | 45% of grade |
| 5. Written assignment, 800 words (May 9)     | 10% of grade |

- Details of test content and assessment criteria 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 and assessment criteria 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 final 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 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 differentiate levels of performance.*

#### 14. Penalties

Late assignments may not be marked, or will be graded down, 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 participation also helps maintain the learning community of your class group. Therefore, your attendance at ALL scheduled language classes and tutorials is expected, and will be recorded. Regular study and practice is essential for language learning, so completion and hand-in of all video homework is required.

To pass 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.

#### 16. Workload

Students can expect to cover 200 hours across the course to make good progress. This includes 3 hours of classes, 1 hour of tutorial, assigned homework, and independent study.

#### 17. Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, 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.

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

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

## 20. Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study).

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress).

Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).