



School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

## DEAF 101 Introduction to New Zealand Sign Language

**Trimester 1, 2012**

5 March to 4 July 2012

### 1. Trimester dates

Teaching dates	5 Mar – 8 June, 2012
Mid-trimester break	6 April to 22 April, 2012
Final assessment	In class, weeks 11 & 12 (no external exam)

### 2. Withdrawal dates

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

### 3. Teaching team



**Lecturer:**  
**Sara Pivac Alexander**  
*Language workshops & lectures*  
*Course coordinator*

Office: Von Zedlitz 314  
Email: [sara.pivac@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sara.pivac@vuw.ac.nz)  
Mon 12.00 -1.00pm



**Tutor:**  
**Mark Berry**  
Tutorials

Office: Von Zedlitz 314  
Email: [mark.Berry@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:mark.Berry@vuw.ac.nz)  
Homework: DEAF 101 box, LALS reception VZ 210

### **Admin notes:**

Please note that both of the teaching staff are Deaf and use NZSL as their first language. To communicate about minor matters, writing is probably the best strategy. An interpreter will be available during Sara's office hour to facilitate conversations about course issues.

If you need to change stream in the first two weeks of the course, inform the course coordinator, Sara. Then you should go to the Faculty Office and complete a change of course form, to switch to the appropriate CRN.

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

**All streams attend** Mon 11.00 -11.50 (Hunter 220) *Lecture*

Plus streamed *language workshops*:

CRN 8674 Mon 1.10 – 3.00 (Von Zedlitz 101)

CRN 10520 Tues 9.00 -10.50am (Kirk 203)

CRN 10029 Tues 12.00 -1.50pm (Kirk 203)

**Tutorials:** Sign up at Deaf Studies noticeboard level 3, Von Zedlitz (opp. lift).

*Group A:* Wed 1.10 - 2.00 pm      *Group C:* Fri 9.00 - 9.50am

*Group B:* Wed 2.10 – 3.00 pm      *Group D:* Fri 10.00 - 10.50am

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

**Note:** Tutorials start in week 1 of the course.

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. We expect you to attend all test dates in your usual tutorial time.

### **Holiday dates affecting classes:**

Two tutorials fall on public holidays and will not run:

Fri April 6<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday) and Wed April 25<sup>th</sup> (Anzac Day)

Independent practice tasks will be assigned in lieu of those tutorials.

A lecture and one stream of language class (8674) fall on Queens Birthday Mon, June 4<sup>th</sup>, (Wk 12), and will not run. Students from the Mon 1-3 class are welcome to attend one of the Tuesday sessions on June 5th for extra practice, for the final test which will be held in tutorials of Week 12.

**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 Prescription

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.

## 8. 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.

## 9. 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 Sara via a NZSL Interpreter.

## 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. Mandatory Attendance and Course Requirements

Face-to-face interaction is essential to learning NZSL. If you miss a class, new language that is introduced and practised in your 2-hour language workshop cannot be easily caught up. Your participation also helps create 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 (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 10 out of 12 tutorials.** Full tutorial attendance is expected, and will be recorded at each session.
- Hand in self-marked **video homework** weekly (in weeks 2-11) 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 notified to the course coordinator.

*Note:* students who do not meet course attendance and assessment requirements are liable to fail this course.

## 11. Materials

### Required:

*NZSL Student DVD & Workbook (Units 1-6)* (Available at VicBooks; also held at Language Learning Centre, and Library AV suite, call number VIS 3127)

- Please check Blackboard each week for supporting class materials – including readings, 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)

An Online version of the NZSL Dictionary is available at: <http://nzsl.vuw.ac.nz/>

- 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 **Vol 1 of Beginner Exercises** (access through LLC webpage): [http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/edith\\_dev/nzsl/index.htm](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/edith_dev/nzsl/index.htm)
- The main library AV Suite (level 9) also has additional Deaf materials.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 13 February to 16 March 2012, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from Vicbooks on Level 4 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 nominated collection points at each campus. 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.

### **Selected library materials relevant to DEAF 101**

#### **AV**

*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)

#### **BOOKS**

*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. (Call Mark HV2545 M823 F, Level 3, 3-day)

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

*A Journey into the Deaf-World.* (1996). Lane, H., Hoffmeister, R., & Bahan, B. San Diego: DawnSignPress. (Call mark: HV2380 L265 J, Level 3, 3-day)

*Seeing Voices: A Journey into the World of the Deaf.* Sacks, Oliver. University of California Press, 1989. (Call mark HV2370 S119 S 1990, level 4)

*People of the Eye: Stories from the Deaf World* by Rachel McKee, Bridget Williams Books 2001 (Call mark: HV2985.5 M154 P 2001, level 3, 3-day, & level 4)

*Outsiders in a Hearing World: A Sociology of Deafness* by P. Higgins, Sage Publications 1980 (Call mark: HV2395 H636 O, level 4)

*When the Mind Hears* by Harlan Lane, Random House 1984 (Call mark: HV2530 L265 H, level 4)

*Reading between the Signs: Intercultural Communication for Interpreters* by Anna Mindess, Intercultural Press 1999. (Call mark: HV2402 M663 R 2ed, level 4)

*Inside Deaf Culture* by C. Padden & T. Humphries, Harvard University Press 2005. (Call mark: HV2545 P123 I, level 3, 3-day)

## 11. Assessment

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

- |                                                 |              |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Test 1 Receptive Wk 4 (in class March 26,27) | 10% of grade |
| 2. Test 2 Receptive Wk 8 (in class May 7,8)     | 15% of grade |
| 3. Test 3 Receptive Wk 11 (in class May 28,29)  | 30% of grade |
| 4. Test 4 Expressive Wk 12 (in tut, June 6,7,8) | 30% of grade |
| 5. Written assignment, 850 words (May 7)        | 10% of grade |
| 6. Weekly video homework (x 10)                 | 5% 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 email the Course Co-ordinator, Sara Pivac Alexander, 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 - 3 will assess receptive comprehension skills only. Test 4 will assess expressive signing skills, through 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 (details distributed in class) will require analysis of course materials relating to the Deaf community, linked to 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 Sara Pivac Alexander *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.

#### **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. 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).