

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEAF 101 Introduction to New Zealand Sign Language

Trimester 1, 2013

4 March to 3 July 2013

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 4 March to 7 June 2013

Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013

Mid-trimester break: 22–28 April 2013

Final assessment In class, weeks 11 & 12 (no external exam)

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Teaching team



Lecturer

Dr David McKee

Language classes

Office: Von Zedlitz 316

Email: david.mckee@vuw.ac.nz



Lecturer & course coordinator

Dr Rachel McKee

Lecture Tues 11-12

*Please see Rachel for any admin or academic support queries

Office: Von Zedlitz 317

Email: rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz



Tutor:

Mark Berry

Language labs

Office: Von Zedlitz 314

Email: mark.berry@vuw.ac.nz

Class times and rooms

All streams attend a lecture: Tues 11.00 -11.50 (Hugh McKenzie LT104)

Plus your language workshop, by stream/CRN number:

L1 CRN 8674 Wed 11.00 - 12.50 (New Kirk 105)

L2 CRN 10029 Tues 2.10 - 4.00 (New Kirk 105)

L3 CRN 10520 Wed 2.10 - 4.00 (New Kirk 105)

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

Group A: Wed 2.10 - 3.00 pm *Group C:* Thur 10.00 - 10.50 am

Group B: Wed 3.10 - 4.00pm *Group D:* Thur 4.10 – 5.00 pm

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

Note: Tutorials start in week 2 of the course.

We expect you to attend all labs and tests in your usual tutorial time. If you can't attend your tutorial for a genuine reason, you may attend another session as a replacement. But please notify tutor Mark Berry in advance by email - so you will not be marked absent at your regular tut.

Holiday dates affecting tutorials

Two tutorials fall on holidays and will not run: Thur 28 March & Wed April 3

Additional information and announcements: On Blackboard www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz and by email to VUW student addresses. If you don't use My Victoria regularly, please set your student email to forward to your personal address. (Go into Student Email, FAQ to find out how). Otherwise you will miss important course-related messages.

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.

Teaching/learning summary

This course offers absolute beginners a guided introduction to conversing in NZSL in everyday situations with Deaf people. You will learn 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 simple conversational skills.

Classes are taught in an interactive way that aims to build confidence in practical NZSL skills. Your participation is important for creating an effective 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 is opportunity for questions and explanation in English during the one-hour lecture.

Learning Objectives

Students who pass this course will be able 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 a Dictionary of NZSL to find sign vocabulary

Students will also be able to:

13. Identify key historical and cultural factors that define the NZ Deaf community

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 5, 6) | 30% of grade |
| 5. Written assignment, 850 words (May 7) | 10% of grade |
| 6. Weekly video homework diary (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 accommodation or support in relation to assessments, please talk to the Course Coordinator as early as possible. Your learning is important and our teaching staff endeavour to accommodate individual needs.

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

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.

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.*

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 stream. 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 of the online homework diary 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 9 out of 11 tutorials.** Full tutorial attendance is expected, and will be recorded at each session.

- Hand in online **homework diary** weekly (in weeks 3-12) as per instructions.
- Lecture attendance (Tues 11am) is not recorded, but your attendance will support learning 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 receive a K (non-passing) grade.

Materials

There are no set texts to purchase for this course. NZSL practice and dictionary resources are online. Readings will be posted in PDF format on Blackboard.

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

- *Do check Blackboard each week for supporting materials – including readings, key vocabulary, and lecture handouts.*

Recommended additional materials:

New Zealand Sign Language Grammar: A Guide for Learners, McKee & McKee, Revised Version 2007. (Available at VicBooks, in library, and LLC).

NZSL Student DVD & Workbook (Units 1-6) (Available to purchase online at: <http://www.nzslta.org.nz/resources>; also held in Central Library The Glass Room (Level 2), DVD 3230, and Language Learning Centre.)

A Concise Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language Kennedy, G. et al (Eds). Bridget Williams Books 2002. (Available at VUW bookshop & major booksellers)

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. *Most are also in the main VUW library catalogue.*

The Central Library, Glass Room (Level 2) has additional video materials. Search catalogue by Video/DVD and 'New Zealand Sign Language'.

The library also has a collection of Deaf Studies reading material. Search by key words 'deaf' and 'sign language'.

Selected library materials relevant to DEAF 101

AV

Sign of the times the story of New Zealand's visual language. 52 min doco. Central Library The Glass Room (Level 2) Call Number:HV2985.5 S578 2006. LLC – ask for DEAF.GEN.10791.D

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

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

Open door, deaf culture. 24 min doco about deaf people and their efforts to make mainstream New Zealanders understand why deafness is part of their identity. TVNZ. Central Library The Glass Room (Level 2), HV2985.5 O611 2009. LLC - DEAF.GEN.14187.D

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)

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 course coordinator *before* the due date.

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.

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. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website

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>

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 Rachel McKee, ph 463 5626

Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at 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.

Most statutes and policies are available at 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 (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.

