



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES**

**NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES  
NZSL 101 INTRODUCTION TO NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE  
20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 1 2016**

**Key dates**

**Trimester dates:** 29 February to 29 June 2016

**Teaching dates:** 29 February to 5 June 2016

**Easter break:** 24–30 March 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 25 April to 1 May 2016

**Last assessment item due:** 3 June 2016

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

**Class times and locations**

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Room</b>
L1 CRN 28113	Mon 2:10 – 4pm	Von Zedlitz 101
L2 CRN 28114	Tues 9 – 10:50am	Murphy 103
L3 CRN 28115	Tues 12 – 1:50pm	Murphy 103
+ All streams	Mon 12 – 12:50pm	Hugh Mackenzie 103
+ Tutorial (50 min) <i>Time Options</i>	Wed 10 – 11am Wed 4 – 5pm Thurs 3 – 4pm Thurs 4 – 5pm	Von Zedlitz 003

**Note: Tutorials start in week 2 of the course.**

If you can't attend your usual tutorial for a genuine reason, you may attend another session instead. But please email tutor in advance so you will not be marked absent at your regular tutorial.

## Holiday dates affecting classes:

If you have a tutorial on Thursday: Week 4, Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> March is Easter break – no tutorial.

If you have a tutorial on Wednesday: Week 5, Wed 30<sup>th</sup> March is Easter break – no tutorial.

## Names and contact details

### Course Coordinator & Monday lectures

Dr Rachel McKee

Office: Von Zedlitz 317

Phone: 463 5626

Office hour: Mon 11-12 or by appt.

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



### Language Class Lecturer

Sara Pivac Alexander

Office: Von Zedlitz 314

Office hour: Mon 11 – 12 or by appt.

Email: [sara.pivacalexander@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sara.pivacalexander@vuw.ac.nz)



### Tutorial Lecturer

Dr David McKee

Office: Von Zedlitz 316

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

Office hour: by apt.



### Course Administrator

Matthew Vink

Office: Von Zedlitz 210

Phone: 463 5255

Office hours: Mon – Fri, 9am – 4:15pm

Email: [matthew.vink@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:matthew.vink@vuw.ac.nz)



## Communication of additional information

Announcements are made through Blackboard [www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz), which will email to Victoria 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 might miss important course messages.

## 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.

## Course content

This course offers absolute beginners a guided introduction to NZSL for communicating in everyday situations. You will learn core vocabulary and basic grammar of NZSL. You will learn about ways of interacting in the visual communication environment of the Deaf community.

Lectures and readings 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.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

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

## Teaching format

Classes are taught in an interactive way that aims to build confidence in practical NZSL skills. Your participation is important for creating a good 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 in English during the Monday lecture.

## Mandatory course requirements

Face-to-face interaction is essential to learning NZSL and achieving the course learning objectives. If you miss a 2-hour language class, new language that is introduced and practised cannot be easily caught up. Your participation also contributes to learning of all members in 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 of the online homework diary is required as evidence of doing this.

In addition to achieving an overall mark of 50%, students must:

- complete all assessment tasks listed (4 tests and written assignment), unless exempted by the course coordinator for a genuine reason.
- **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 8 out of 11 tutorials.** Full tutorial attendance is expected, and will be recorded at each session.
- hand in at least 80% of online **homework diary** weekly (in weeks 3-12) as per instructions.

Lecture attendance (Mon) is not recorded, but the material taught in this session will support learning in practical sessions, and the written assignment.

Absences (beyond the minimum attendance requirements) due to illness or other unexpected crisis should be notified to the course coordinator.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

## Workload

Students can expect to do an average of 200 hours work across the trimester, to make good progress. This includes 3 hours of classes and 1 hour of tutorial per week, weekly homework, and work towards the written assignment and practical tests. Students are encouraged to practice NZSL outside of class with other signers.

## Assessment

Your work in the course will be internally assessed through a series of practical language tests and one written assignment, as follows:

Item	Type	Due date	Weighting (% of final grade)	CLO (s)
Test 1 50 mins	Comprehension	Wk 4 – in class <b>21/22 March</b>	10%	1 – 12
Test 2 50 mins	Comprehension	Wk 7 – in class <b>18/19 April</b>	15%	1 – 12
Test 3 20 mins	Vocab review	Wk 9 – in tut <b>11/12 May</b>	5%	1 - 12
Test 4a 50 mins	Comprehension	Wk 11 – in class <b>23/24 May</b>	30%	1 – 12
Test 4b 50 mins	Expressive	Wk 12 – in tut <b>1/2 June</b>	25%	1 – 12
Assignment	Written task 850 words	Wk 8 <b>2 May</b>	10%	13
Homework diary	On template provided	Weekly, x 10 (from Wk 2)	5%	1 – 12

1. Details of test content and assessment criteria will be provided in class and Blackboard (*Course Information* folder) a week prior to each test.
2. Written assignment instructions and assessment criteria are available on Blackboard (*Assignments* Folder).
3. Please **note test dates in your diary**, and attend all scheduled test sessions. Tests will not be re-scheduled for individuals, except in genuine cases of illness or bereavement. Please contact Rachel in advance if you know you cannot make a test date.

## Submission and return of work

Submission of written assignment is by hard copy, in class or in the LALS office assignment box, level 2 Von Zedlitz. The assignment will be returned at tutorials by wk 11.

Homework diary should be submitted by hard copy in tutorials. This will not be returned to you.

## Extensions and penalties

An extension for the written assignment (with no penalty) will be considered on grounds of illness, exceptional personal circumstances or unusual workload pressure.

Late submission of the assignment without an extension will be subject to a penalty of 1 point (out of the potential 10 points) per day.

If you need special accommodation or support with assessments, please talk to the Course Coordinator as early as possible. Your learning is important to us, and we try to accommodate individual needs.

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

## Set texts

There are no texts or notes to purchase for this course.

- Homework exercises and NZSL Dictionary are online (see links in DEAF101 Blackboard, *Useful Links* folder).
- Readings (pdf) are online in Blackboard, *Course Resources* folder
- Do check Blackboard each week for extra supporting materials - including vocabulary sheets, lecture handouts, and links to relevant websites.

## Recommended reading

*New Zealand Sign Language Grammar: A Guide for Learners*, R. McKee, 2015. (Forthcoming as E-book, Bridget Williams Books. Hard copies of previous version available in library, and Language Learning Centre.)

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

*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)

*Introduction to American Deaf Culture* (2013) Thomas K. Holcomb (Call mark HV2545 .H65 2013)

*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)

## **VIDEO**

*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

*Pivac family* Documentary on Sara and Sonia Pivac, two New Zealand girls with hearing impairment, focusing on family life. (1998). (28 min.) For electronic access, click here:

<http://victoria.lconz.ac.nz/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=1777020>

LLC - ask for DEAF.GEN.7986.V

*The Art of Signing* 30 min TVNZ documentary about NZSL (2000) (LLC and VUW library The Glass Room. Level 2) For electronic access, click here:

<http://victoria.lconz.ac.nz/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=1773835>

*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 The Glass Room, Level 2)

*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. (2009) TVNZ. Central Library The Glass Room (Level 2), HV2985.5 O611 2009. LLC - DEAF.GEN.14187.D

- The Language Learning Centre (LLC) in Von Zedlitz level 0 has a collection of NZSL related materials. Ask their staff. *Most are 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'.

## **Class representative**

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

## Student feedback

The course (formerly named DEAF 101) was last formally evaluated in 2014. Student feedback showed a high level of satisfaction with organisation, content, assessment and workload in the course. No substantial changes have been made to the course, although assessment tasks are revised each year. Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)