Prepared by the Department of Language and Literature
Departmental Approval Date: February 13, 2017
Date Approved by Curriculum and Programs: February 22, 2017          Effective:  Fall 20

1.  **Course Number:   ASL101**
    **Course Title:       American Sign Language I**

2.  **Description:**  An introductory level course in American Sign Language intended to give an overview of both the language and the culture of the Deaf community. The course focuses on everyday interaction, frequently used signs, basic rules of grammar, and cultural features within the Deaf community.

3.  **Student Learning Outcomes:**  Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
    - Recognize that ASL is rich, complex language fully independent from English through class discussion, exams and papers
    - Communicate nonverbally using American Sign Language (ASL) both receptively and expressively
    - Recognize the Deaf community as a cultural/linguistic minority through class discussion, exams and papers.
    - Understand the usage, basic rules of grammar and syntax of ASL with respect to the cultural features within the Deaf community
    - Present an accurate representation of specific hand-shapes, facial expressions, body orientation and gestures
    - Describe the history of ASL
    - Discuss the unique characteristics of the Deaf community and Deaf culture
    - Analyze and react to personal experience in various situations among the Deaf community through exposure to situations involving native use of ASL and interpreted events
    - Recognize and respond to ethical issues in course readings.

4.  **Credits:**  3 credits

5.  **Satisfies General Education Requirement:**  Humanities and Fine Arts

6.   **Prerequisite:**  Satisfactory basic skills assessment score or **co-requisite**: ENL108 (Critical Reading & Thinking)

7.  **Semesters Offered:**  Fall, Spring, Summer

8.  **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Students are evaluated on their preparedness for class, completion of assignments on time, class participation, expressive and receptive skills and test results.

9.  **General Topical Outline:** This class is taught in a "total immersion" style using ASL covering Units 1 through 6. Workbooks will be checked weekly and the past week's work will be reviewed to reinforce the vocabulary, styles of expression, facial expression, hand shapes, etc. Use of gesture (pantomime) is encouraged when a student initially lacks appropriate vocabulary to convey a thought. The course uses everyday expressions and interactions as a basis for acquiring the fundamentals of ASL.