

Del Mar College
American Sign Language & Interpreting Program

Course: SLNG 1321: Introduction to the Interpreting Profession
Credit Hrs: Three (3)
Prerequisites: SGNL 1301/SLNG 1304: American Sign Language I

Course Description:

An overview of the field of American Sign Language (ASL)/English interpretation. Provides a historical framework for the current principles, ethics, roles, responsibilities, and standard practices of the interpreting profession. Prerequisite: SGNL 1301/SLNG1304 or instructor approval. Assessment Levels: R3, E2, M1.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to list and explain the following:
 - The different varieties of sign systems & languages used by interpreters.
 - Philosophies of interpreting
 - Interpreting process models
- Students will be able to discuss situations in which interpreters work.
- Students will be able to describe compensation rates for interpreters and how they are decided.
- Students will be able to discuss the current demands for interpreters and efforts to meet those demands.
- Students will be able to list and explain the tenets of the RID Code of Ethics and the TCDHH BEI Standards of Ethical Behavior.
- Students will demonstrate ability to apply the Code of Ethics/Standards of Ethical Behavior to decision making in interpreting situations.
- Students will be able to discuss the beginnings of sign language interpreting and the processes that have professionalized sign language interpreting
- Students will be able to list the professional organizations for sign language interpreters and describe the purposes of and services provided by these organizations.
- Students will be able to discuss issues of language, power/oppression, culture and control of the communication process.
- Students will be able to recognize and describe the impact of differences in language, power, and culture of two participants in a communication event, and the impact that has on interpretations.

Text and Materials:

So You Want to Be an Interpreter, An Introduction to Sign Language Interpreting (4th edition)
by Janice Humphrey and Bob Alcorn.

Objectives:

- Use technology to trace the history of interpreting. C18
- Describe materials and facilities required for interpreting. C2
- Define and list the physical and mental characteristics required for interpreting.
- Identify and describe the process model of interpretation.

- Describe and define characteristics of benefactors/oppressors and the oppressed.
- Identify and describe the philosophical frames of interpretation.
- List and describe the settings in which interpreters are employed.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply the TCDHH standards of ethical behavior/RID code of ethics.
- Participate as a member of a team in discussing interpreting issues. **C2, C9**
- Demonstrate ability to negotiate in a variety of settings. **C13**
- Identify differences in modes of communication and languages.
- Define terminology related to the field of interpreting.
- Effectively communicate ideas in English on exams, reports, and journal entries. **C1, C5, C7, C8**

General Objectives:

The following are general objectives to be met this semester. At the end of the semester, you will need to evaluate the progress you have made in the course compared with that made in other courses you have taken at this college.

- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, and trends).
- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations of theories.
- Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving and decisions).

The SCANS competencies identified by the Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills have been infused into this course. Specific competencies are indicated at the end of the targeted course objectives by the code **C** and a number. The SCANS were developed to close the gap between training and workplace know-how. Your instructor will explain the anticipated level of proficiency.

Student Grades will consist of:

Discussion questions
 Tests (3)
 Article reviews
 Interpreting observations
 Final Exam

The job of an interpreter is very demanding and requires a tremendous amount of discipline. It is our goal to help you gain the knowledge and skills necessary for your future career. As such, the faculty of this program have decided to adopt the grading system of the Health Science Programs (as printed in the Del Mar College Catalog) which is as follows: 100-90% = A; 89-83% = B; 82-75% = C, 74-70% = D; 69%- below = F. American Sign Language & Interpreting Program Majors must make a minimum grade of “C” in this course to meet graduation requirements.