BASIC SIGN LANGUAGE

Restored University Syllabus 2017

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Course Description:
This course is designed to help the student learn basic Sign Language, a foundational history of the Deaf in America, and the foundation to understand Deaf Culture. The study will include learning between 500 and 1,000 Signs, or Sign Language vocabulary. We will do this by demonstrating the Signs as well as giving an explanation for the Sign where one can be given. The study will also include a brief history of what the Deaf have been through here in America, as well as an explanation of the culture of the Deaf. Students will learn how to present the Gospel to a Deaf person.

Course Purpose:
There are approximately 22 million Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing individuals in the United States. The imperative of Jesus: "*Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature…*" implies going to this Deaf world with the Gospel clearly communicated through Sign Language. This course will aim to help both a person that might feel called to the reach the Deaf with the Gospel, as well as a person preparing for ministry in general that might be able to be a blessing within the local church in offering a ministry to the Deaf. Generally, the goal is to give the student a basic understanding of Signs, a basic understanding of the background of the Deaf, and the tools to be able to clearly communicate the Gospel through Signs to the Deaf world.

Course Objectives:
1. The student will be able to communicate through Sign Language and understand someone signing to him. He will learn between 500 and 1,000 Signs throughout the five classes taught.
2. The student will learn the history of the Deaf in America as well as the culture of the Deaf. The student will learn names, dates, and circumstances that affected the Deaf and the development of the language of the Deaf today. This is vitally important to know if the student will be successful in going to reach the Deaf. The Deaf, as with most sub-cultures within American culture, are very proud of their history. If the student learns only Signs, he will never be fully accepted in the culture of the Deaf.
3. The student will learn to clearly present the Gospel to a Deaf person. If there is no other motivation to take this class, this would be motivation enough. Jesus' last words before He ascended included a mandate for every Christian to be a witness at home and abroad. It is the responsibility of the redeemed to carry the message to

the world. The Deaf are often a forgotten people, and represent a mission-field within the United States of America and around the world.

4. The student will learn the basic ingredients that are needed to start and continue a Deaf ministry in his local church. These ingredients will be given out of forty years of practical experience in actual ministry. These principles were developed from real church experience over many years. The student will be taught many practical applications for the basic Signs he will be taught.

Required Reading:

Barr, Jon – *Video Vocabulary* – Silent Word Ministries
Camp, Dr. Ted – *How to Build a Deaf Ministry* – Silent Word Ministries

Course Schedule: Thursdays from 6-8pm

Class # / Date	Topic	Special Assignment Due
#1 / Thursday, March 16, 2017	• Introduction to the course – Rules for Fingerspelling • Hints for learning Signs • Signs 1-98 (Video Vocabulary) • Memorize Rom. 3:23	Learn Sign Language Alphabet
#2 / Thursday, March 23, 2017	• Signs 99-196 (Video Vocabulary) • Memorize Rom. 6:23a	Review ABC's and Chapter One - Two (Signs 1-98)
#3 / Thursday, March 30, 2017	• Signs 197-273 • History of American Sign Language • Memorize Rom. 5:8	Review Signs 99-196
#4 / Thursday, April 6, 2017	• Signs 274-398 • Memorize Rom. 10:9, 13	Review Signs 197-273
#5 / Thursday, April 13, 2017	• Signs 399-517 • How to present the Gospel to a Deaf person	FINAL CHALLENGE

Assignments:

1. Memorize the 838 Signs in the *Video Vocabulary* book.
2. Read the booklet, "*How to Build a Deaf Ministry*," by Dr. Ted Camp.
3. Learn how to lead a Deaf person to Christ.

Outside Resources:

Not required, but beneficial:

- Books to read:
    - Lane, Harlan. *When the Mind Hears – A History of the Deaf*. New York: Vintage Books, 1984.
    - Spradley, Thomas S. & Spradley, James P. *Deaf Like Me.* Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 1987.
    - Neimark, Anne E. *A Deaf Child Listened – Thomas Gallaudet, Pioneer in American Education.* New York: William Morrow and Company, 1983.
    - Sternberg, Martin L.A. *American Sign Language Dictionary*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1994.
    - Lawrence, Edgar D. *Ministering to The Silent Minority – How to Develop a Church Ministry for the Deaf.* Springfield, Missouri: Gospel Publishing House, 1978.
    - Kotvas, Joe. *Into the Silence – A Biblical Perspective and Plan for Reaching the Deaf Around the World.* Peru, South America: Joe Kotvas, 2006.

- **DVD** – Video Vocabulary (Available through Silent Word Ministries website: www.SilentWordMinistries.org)