

# **ASLS 211**

## **Linguistics of American Sign Language**

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

### **Description**

**ASLS 211 – Linguistics of American Sign Language:** is a course that is designed for signers of American Sign Language (ASL) with no previous background in linguistics. This course is an introductory study of the phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic features of ASL, along with an introduction to sociolinguistics. Students compare basic linguistic components of ASL with similar structures in other languages.

**Pre-requisites:** ASLS 204 with a grade of “B” or above

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. describe the basic concepts of linguistics;
2. explain the basic parameters and phonological processes that impact ASL;
3. describe the difference between languages and communication systems;
4. identify phonemes in ASL and English;
5. identify types of morphemes in ASL and English;
6. compare the types of verbs in ASL;
7. categorize sentence types in ASL;
8. contrast different types of meaning and pragmatic intent in ASL discourse;
9. recognize sociolinguistic variation in ASL;
10. categorize the reasons for sociolinguistic variation; and
11. evaluate how sociolinguistic variation impacts the work of interpreters.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Basic properties of language
  - a. Characteristics of language
  - b. Descriptive and prescriptive grammar
- II. ASL Phonology
  - a. ASL Parameters and glossing
  - b. Phonological processes
- III. ASL Morphology
  - a. Types of morphemes
  - b. Morphological processes
- IV. ASL Semantics
  - a. Types of meaning
  - b. Pragmatics
- V. ASL Syntax

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.  
For more information, see your professor’s syllabus.

- a. Sentence types
  - b. Verb types
  - c. Aspect and inflection
- VI. Sociolinguistics
  - a. Types of variation in ASL
  - b. Impact of variation on communication

### **Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- 10 homework assignments applying linguistic principles
- one midterm exam
- one comprehensive final examination

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is taught completely in American Sign Language. Students are expected to have a minimum language proficiency in order to be successful in this course.

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