

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY**  
**ASL 125 – HISTORY & CULTURE OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY I (3 CR.)**

**Course Description**

Presents an overview of various aspects of Deaf Culture, including educational and legal issues. Examines the history of the Deaf Community. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose**

This course serves as an overview of the historical and cultural aspects of the Deaf community. This course is open to all students interested in learning about the Deaf community and satisfies the college Humanities requirement. Students enrolled in the A.A.S of ASL-English Interpretation or the A.S. of Social Sciences with a Specialization in Deaf Studies is required to take this course.

**Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites**

Students should have completed ENG 111 or be concurrently enrolled. Students will be expected to utilize effective writing and grammar skills.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the historical perspectives on deafness and how they shape the identity of Deaf people.
- Describe how the ear works in hearing people and define audiological and speech terms often associated with deaf people.
- Describe the impact of cochlear implants on deaf people and describe the Deaf community's view.
- Explain the difference between language and communication and the evidence supporting ASL as a bona fide language.
- Identify the most common cultural customs of the Deaf community.
- Describe the historical events beginning in the 1800's through the present that shape the Deaf community.
- Describe the various educational placements available for deaf children such as schools for the deaf, self-contained programs, and mainstreamed classes.
- Define various signing systems created to help deaf students learn to read and write English, such as SEE, Contact Signing, and Cued Speech, and explain their impact on the students, on their education, and on their identity.
- Explain the impact of recent legislation such as IDEA, PL94-142, and the ADA.
- Describe the role of interpreters and their sometimes uneasy role in the Deaf community.
- Describe different organizations that serve deaf and hard of hearing people, both locally and nationally.
- Explain global perspectives on deafness and how deaf people are treated in other countries.

**Major Topics to be Included**

- a. Historical perspectives on deafness
- b. The social identity of Deaf people
- c. Language and communication
- d. Historical and current events that shape the Deaf community
- e. An overview of the folklore and literature
- f. Deaf educational options and their impact on Deaf children
- g. Historical and Current Legislation affecting the Deaf community
- h. Global perspectives on deafness