

Syllabus: The "Deaf President Now" Movement

Course: American Sign Language I

Required Text: *Triumph of the Spirit: The DPN Chronicle*, 5th Edition, by Dr. Angel Ramos

I. Unit Overview

In ASL 1, we don't just learn the language; we learn about the people who use it. This unit focuses on the 1988 "Deaf President Now" (DPN) movement, the most important week in modern Deaf history. Using *Triumph of the Spirit: The DPN Chronicle*, students will follow a day-by-day account of how Gallaudet University students changed the world's perception of Deaf people as a disability group to a cultural-linguistic minority. This unit will also share the three most important lessons of the movement that led to its success: Community 1st, Attitude, and Partners (Allies).

II. Student Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- **Identify Key Figures:** Recognize the key people in the DPN movement.
- **Understand the "Why":** Explain why having a hearing president was seen as an act of "audism" by the student body.
- **Connect Language to History:** Understand how the success of DPN changed the hearing world's perception of Deaf people from a disability group to a cultural-linguistic minority.
- **3 Major Lessons of the DPN Movement:** Identify the three major lessons of the DPN movement that led to its success (Community 1st, Attitude, Partners), explain each, and give an example of an individual that exhibited each lesson.
- **Identify Partners:** Identify key people who were Partners with the Deaf community.
- **Accepted Members of the Deaf Community:** Explain how hearing ASL students can become accepted into the Deaf community.

III. Assessment Options for Teachers

1. Online Assessment
 - a. **Format:** 25 multiple choice questions.
 - b. **Student Reward:** Students scoring **70% or higher** receive a digital *Certificate of Achievement* to share with their teachers.
 - c. **Alternative:** A paper-based version of the online assessment is also available for your convenience.
2. Customizable Question Bank
 - a. **Format:** A repository of 45 questions.
 - b. **Purpose:** Allows teachers to create customized quizzes or exams.
3. Teachers who are using *Triumph of the Spirit* as required reading can access the assessments above by sending a request to rrpublishers@aol.com.