



Basic Course Information

Semester:	SP21	Instructor Name:	Christopher Cardona
Course Title & #:	AMSL100	Email:	Christopher.Cardona@Imperial.edu
CRN #:	20438	Webpage (optional):	NA
Classroom:	Online - Zoom	Office #:	Online/Email
Class Dates:	2/16 – 6/11	Office Hours:	8AM – 10 AM TR
Class Days:	TR	Office Phone #:	NA
Class Times:	6:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Emergency Contact:	Email
Units:	4	Class Format:	Zoom Meetings (Synchronous)

Course Description

An introduction to American Sign Language and fingerspelling. The course will focus on conversational skills, grammar, and vocabulary as it used in Deaf community. Deaf culture will be examined.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

Recommended preparation: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- 1) Differentiate between basic similar signs.
- 2) Recognize basic differences between simple ASL and English sentence structures.
- 3) Identify basic differences between Deaf and Hearing cultures.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate how to sign numbers zero to one hundred using the cardinal and ordinal numbering systems correctly.
2. Express and receive fingerspelled words at basic skill level.
3. Recall and produce basic sign vocabulary, approximately 25 - 30 signs per week, being able to distinguish between signs that are produced similarly.
4. Recognize and produce specific grammatical structures, including personal and possessive pronouns, directional verbs and noun-verb pairs.
5. Express a basic knowledge of American Sign Language syntax.
6. Sign presentations, following the criteria and topics indicated by the instructor.
7. Participate in in class signing activities - including physical and emotional descriptions, discussing daily routines, and requesting in ASL.
8. Demonstrate a basic use of simple classifiers.
9. Sign using the correct facial grammar and syntax for forming questions in ASL.
10. Discuss basic Deaf culture issues including: differences between Deaf and Hearing cultures; how to navigate a signing environment; appropriate greetings and attention getting behaviors.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required text: Learning American Sign Language. (Second Edition). Humphries. T. & C. Padden. ISBN 0-205- 27553-2

Recommended text: The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary. Tennant, R. and M. Brown. ISBN 978-1-56368-444-9.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Teaching Strategy: The instructor will be teaching synchronously via Zoom. This class was listed in the catalog as real time, with time blocks given. There are many advantages to attending the live class. It is the easiest way to earn lab points, you will have access to the embedded tutor during that time, and some exercises you CANNOT do individually. Language is about communication and interaction. Students must attend class with cameras ON.

Students will be participating in a variety of class exercises designed to increase both receptive and expressive skills. Please arrive to class on time, ready to start signing. The instructor knows that you will not understand 100% of his signing. The necessary information is delivered to you via in class notes accompanying the lecture and information loaded onto Canvas.

There are several videos posted in each Module. Students are expected to watch each video, as there is valuable information presented using various models.

Each Unit will provide an opportunity for self-care in the Module labeled “Relax with ASL”. Students are encouraged to participate.

We will be introducing new vocabulary weekly, and then applying it through a variety of exercises. You **MUST** practice outside of class.

We will also be learning new grammatical structures weekly as we go through the chapters of the book. You will be asked to prepare some ASL assignments outside of class; you will be given clear instructions to follow to produce successful assignments. You may have to sign individually to your instructor, or in small groups, or in front of the class.

We will have presentations this semester, as well as signing labs, small group work, and larger group work. You will not This will require a time commitment, so please read the statement below from the Department of Education.

You will quiz weekly in this class and will take 3 exams over the course of the semester. A few quizzes will be given in the Zoom classroom. Most quizzes will be given through the Canvas system, but not using the Canvas quiz feature. You will be given the question file and a link to a recording. You will then click on the recording and start the quiz. The exams will be administered the same way. There are no time limits on exams or quizzes, as you may need to watch the recordings a few times if your Wi-Fi glitches or goes down.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out of class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Late work is not acceptable, except for an emergency. Meeting deadlines is a soft skill for which employers are looking and I want you to develop that skill in this course.

Tests or quizzes are not weighted in this course. Points will be given for discussions, assignments, quizzes, and exams.

Course Policies

My classroom rules remain the same, regardless of online or on ground:

1 – Pay attention to the best of your ability – Turn on your cameras when in the Zoom room. I need to see you to know if you are even there. If you are having camera tech difficulties, let me know via the Chat or email. If you have to turn off your camera, let me know why. No cell phones, unless I say to use them or you are using them to screen shot the notes. (And then you still need to write the notes down, or you'll never remember the info.)

2 – If you have a question, ask the instructor, not your classmates. You will have an opportunity to discuss things with your classmates in the Zoom classroom, and you may clarify things with each other. But if you have a significant question, you should probably ask the person who is going to give you the grade, not your classmate. The only stupid question is the one you don't ask – and it will probably show up on the test!

3 – NO CHEATING!!!!!!!!!! There is not a strong enough English word to tell you how I feel about cheating. It is far better to leave an answer blank or to tell me a joke or draw me a picture when you don't know the answer. This is even more important during this time of online learning. I do not want to have to have you record yourself taking exams, or to administer them live to monitor all of you. Please do not make me. Your honor is something that no one can take from you. Don't give it away.

Your instructor's perspective on attending class via Zoom: Learning via Zoom can be challenging. Many of you will be attending from your home or your workplace. That means there may be many different, important things competing for your attention. I personally don't care if you bring your dog, cat, or baby/younger sibling into the Zoom room. They are a part of your life too. I don't care if you have your makeup on or not. I don't care if you have your hair done or the worst bad hair day ever.

I DO care that you make it in to class. (In clothes. Please wear clothes. Something that covers all of you, even if we don't see it!) Students will be expected to follow IVC's online netiquette policy:

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.

- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette:

(1) identify yourself,

(2) include a subject line,

(3) avoid sarcasm,

(4) respect others' opinions and privacy,

(5) acknowledge and return messages promptly,

(6) copy with caution,

(7) do not spam or junk mail,

(8) be concise,

(9) use appropriate language,

(10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and

(11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].



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Other Course Information

Your instructor believes that we can still create a learning community – and a signing community - on Zoom. We will be interacting, and you will get to know your classmates and possibly make some new friends. ASL belongs to the Deaf community, and the Deaf community is a friendly group of people, who enjoy interacting. You don't have to be a "people person" to take ASL. You do have to be willing to communicate with your classmates. There will be times that your grade will depend on your classmates and your interaction with them. Make sure that you are polite and supportive: EVERYONE is learning, and ANYONE can be having a bad day, and may not be signing as well as they can.

Work Based Learning (WBL)

Career possibilities in [ASL Interpretation](#).

Work-based learning (WBL) allows students to apply classroom content in professional settings while gaining real-world experiences. These opportunities will provide you with a deeper, more engaging, and relevant learning environment. This semester, I will be offering the following WBL activities to provide you with the opportunity to explore career options in [ASL Interpretation](#).

We will have two guest speakers. One is an actor, who knows ASL. The other is an Educational Interpreter. They are invited to assist you in exploring their professions should you wish to explore theater or ASL Interpretation.

Furthermore, in the discussions, we will explore how your chosen major at IVC and the career field you have chosen will be enriched by ASL knowledge. You may wish to be an ASL Interpreter and we will explore the many possibilities and fields available. We will also explore how knowing ASL will assist you in your chosen career field, even if not related to interpretation.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar – Subject to Change

I do not spend time in class covering the syllabus. You are expected to read it prior to class.

Very little extra credit will be given in class during the semester. Extra credit opportunities will consist of either attending an event where you use your ASL, or you observe upper level signers using their ASL. These are called Deaf events, as there are usually Deaf people attending. There will be at least 9 Deaf events during this semester, and at least 4 of them will be offered on campus. **You are required to attend a minimum of 4 ASL/Deaf Events this semester. I encourage you not to wait until the final weeks of class to cram them all in.**

Please note that the "week" in this course begins and ends on **TUESDAYS** most generally. There are exceptions for Review Weeks, but those will be clearly listed.

There will be a discussion post, assignment, and quiz each week. There will be a minimum of three papers/projects and three presentations in this course.



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 2/16 – 2/23	Unit 1 – Introductions and Personal Information Parameters of ASL Yes/No Questions	Pages 1-12
Week 2 2/23 – 3/2	Unit 2 – Learning ASL Yes/No Questions Direction Meet with Matt	Pages 13 - 22
Week 3 3/2 -3/9	Unit 3 – Politeness Directional Verbs Asking for help	Pages 23 - 34
Week 4 3/9 – 3/14	Review Units 1 -3 Quiz Paper Due - Audism	Review Units 1 - 3
Week 5 3/16 – 3/23	Unit 4 – Descriptions Descriptive Adjectives Topic/Comment Sentence Structure	Pages 35 - 48
Week 6 3/23 – 3/30	Unit 5 – Requests Non/Verb Pairs	Pages 49 - 68
Week 7 3/30 - 4/2	Review Units 4 & 5 Quiz Paper Due – Deaf History	Review Units 4 & 5
Week 8 4/13 – 4/20	Unit 6 – Expressing Yourself Negation Presentation Due	Pages 67 - 82
Week 9 4/20 – 4/27	Unit 7 – More Descriptions Objects, Numbers, Classifications	Pages 83 - 96
Week 10 4/27 – 5/4	Unit 8 – Family & Friends Time tenses	Pages 97 - 110
Week 11 5/4 – 5/9	Review Units 6 – 8 Quiz Paper and Presentation Due	Review Units 6 - 8
Week 12 5/11 – 5/18	Unit 9 – More Descriptions Schools for the Deaf	Pages 111 - 124
Week 13 5/18 – 5/25	Unit 10 – At Home and Daily Living Classifiers and Signs derived from FS	Pages 125 -140
Week 14 5/25 – 6/1	Unit 11 – Food and Food Shopping Abbreviations and numbers	Pages 141 - 156
Week 15 6/1 – 6/8	Review Units 9 – 11 Quiz Paper Due	Review Units 9 - 11
Week 16 6/8 – 6/11	Final Exam Final consists of several parts	