

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	JOE HENDERSON
Course Title & #:	AMSL 100	Email:	JOE.HENDERSON@IMPERIAL.EDU
CRN #:	10195 & 10201	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	ONLINE	Office #:	
Class Dates:	AUG 11 – DEC 6	Office Hours:	BY APPOINTMENT
Class Days:	N/A	Office Phone #:	N/A
Class Times:	N/A	Emergency Contact:	N/A
Units:	4	Class Format/Modality:	ONLINE

Course Description

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

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 numbering system correctly.*
- 2. Express and receive fingerspelled words at basic skill level.*
- 3. Recall and produce basic sign vocabulary, approximately 35 - 40 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 and making statements 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: *Humphries, T., Padden, C.. 2004. Learning American Sign Language. 2nd (Discipline Classic) Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN: 9780205275533.*

OPTIONAL: *Tennant, R., Brown, M.. 2010. The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary. 2nd (Discipline Classic) Gallaudet University Press. ISBN: 9781563684449.*

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

In this class students will be required to:

1. Review vocabulary and supplemental information.
2. Review Grammatical and Cultural notes in PH book.
3. Participate in Discussion (not only responding to the prompt but also responding to classmates' responses.)
4. Record self-signing the exercises in the book.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Course Work	
Assessments	% Total Grade
Assignments	20%
Discussion Forums	20%
Quizzes	10%
Exams	25%
Interactive final	10%
Deaf culture Paper and Presentation	15%
Total Points	100%



Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

The Goal of this class is to learn not just the language but also the culture of Deaf people. This should be a safe space for classmates to ask questions. The goal of the class is not just for you to learn about Deaf people but also our role/impact on the Deaf community through our actions. We will respect our fellow classmates. Late work **will not** be accepted.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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

[Provide a tentative overview of the readings, assignments, tests, and/or other activities for the duration of the course. A table format as in the example below may be used for this purpose.]

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 AUG 11-17	1. Syllabus 2. Class Expectations 3. Explanation of stages through class 4. Picture discussion Activity 5. Audism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get Book• Questions about syllabus• Practice F/S name in ASL• Through Deaf eyes

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
	6. F/S paperwork exercise 7. Shapes, Parameters 8. ENGLISH vs ASL 9. Grammar Glossing discussion 10. PH 1 vocab 11. PH exercise B 12. Deaf Intro rubric (explanation) 13. Numbers 1-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • READ PH 1 & 2 • Practice fingerspelling 10 famous names • Practice Deaf Intro • Pick Partner for presentation #1 • Through Deaf Eyes
Week 2 AUG 18 -24	1. ASL sentence Grammar (Continuum) 2. NMM's and sentence types 3. PH 2 Vocabulary 4. PH 2 Exercise A, C, D 5. Deaf Intro discussion 6. 10 Famous names 7. Quiz #1 Fingerspelling, 8. Review Quiz#1 9. PH 3 Vocabulary 10. PH 3 Exercise A, B, C 11 Practice Gloss sentences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloss Sentences for presentation #1 Questions and Answers • Read PH 3 • Review PH 1&2 • Through Deaf eyes assignment due • PH 3 exercises • Practice Presentation Number#1 • Review PH 1&2 exercises • Practice sentences Due • Practice presentation #1 due
Week 3 AUG 25-31	1. Review Practice sentences 2. PH 3 Vocab and Directional Verbs 3. Practice presentation #1 4. Culture paper Guidelines 5. Quiz #2 Directional Verbs 6. PH 3 Vocab 7. Presentation #1 8. Practice Exam#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice presentation #1 • Exercise PH 3A-B • Review for Quiz • Find a topic for Deaf culture paper and presentation • Review Glossing sentences • Start practice Exam #1
Week 4 SEPT 1-7	1. Review PH 1-3 2. Discuss potential topics for Culture paper/ presentation ideas 3. Fingerspelling game 4. Discuss Deaf Jokes and their Cultural importance 5. Deaf special guest 6. Review and discuss Practice Exam #1 7. Famous name practice Line game 8. Where did ASL come from? Why isn't it English on the hangs? 9. Numbers 1-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Practice for exam #1 • Prepare for exam #1 • Deaf Culture topic Due

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 5 SEPT 8-14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deaf Culture topic Due 2. Exam #1 3. Review Exam# 1 answers 4. Work on research for culture paper and presentation 5. Congress of Milan 6. Current education of deaf and concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Deaf culture paper and presentation • PH 4 vocab and exercises
Week 6 SEPT 15-21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PH 4 Vocab and Facial expressions 2. Physical description sequence (pop dolls) 3. PH 8 Select Vocab for presentation #2 4. Presentation#2 Guidelines 5. Super character introduction 6. Quiz# 4 Clothing types 7. PH 6 Vocabulary negation in ASL Modals 8. Numbers 1-30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice super character • Practice PH 4 Vocab • Gloss for Presentation #2 • Practice Presentation #2 • PH 6 • Finalize Gloss presentation #2 • Practice presentation #2
Week 7 SEPT 22-28	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Practice Presentation #2 2. PH 4,6,8 review 3. PH 5 Vocabulary 4. PH 5 (Types of requests) 5. Lecture about the Connecticut School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation #2 practice video submission • Review the ASL Request • Gloss Practice ASL request • Review PH 4,6,8 • Practice PH 5 Vocab • Decide on Deaf culture topic and submit topic
Week 8 SEPT 29-OCT 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PH 8 Vocab 2. Numbers 1-50 3. Quantifiers/number incorporation 4. What is a classifier and the different types of classifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for exam #2
Week 9 OCT 6-12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. exam #2 2. ASL Glossed Request Due 3. 2 sources for Deaf culture paper due 4. PH 1-6, 8 5. Character description. 6. PH 7 Vocab, classifiers 	
Week 10 OCT 13-19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quiz #5 Milan Conference, Classifiers, numbers 2. PH 10 3. PH 9 clock time signs 4. Telephone Game Names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Classifiers • PH 7A-C • Read PH 8 • Practice numbers 1-50 • Study for quiz



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
	5. Groups describe classmates 6. Special presenter 7. 10 routines you do daily with time signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH 8B-C • PH 8 Vocab • PH 7 Vocab • Culture paper Due Read PH 10 • PH 10 B-C • PH 9A-D
Week 11 OCT 20-26	1. Presentation #2 2. Review Study Guide 3. Review chapters PH 7, 9, 10 4. Numbers 50 -100 5. Exam #3 study guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice your 10 routines • Complete exam #3 study guide
Week 12 OCT 27- NOV 2	1. PH 11 Vocab, Grammar 2. PH 11 Signing Money 3. Grocery shopping Pattern 4. Group presentation of list 5. Switching groups and doing list again 6. Cumulative review chapters 1-10 7. Quiz #6 Numbers 1-100, PH 9-10 • Review for Exam #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for Exam#3 • Review Notes PH 1A-10D
Week 13 NOV 3-9	Practice Exam #3 Exam #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for Exam # 3 • PH 11
Week 14 NOV 10-16	1. PH 12 vocab 2. PH 12A-C 3. Quiz #7 Grocery list 4. Review final	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Grocery Flyer • Make a list of 10 items from flyer • Practice the list • Prepare for grocery quiz • 10 more grocery items from Flyer
Week 15 NOV 17-22	Written Final	Study for Written and video Final
Week 16 NOV 24-30	NO CLASSES !!!!!!!	
Week 17 DEC 1-5	Final response video to instructor's questions	

Subject to change without prior notice