



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2023	Instructor Name:	Liisa Mendoza
Course Title & #:	American Sign Language 1 – AMSL 100	Email:	liisa.mendoza@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10198	Webpage (optional):	N/A
Classroom:	Class meets on Zoom	Office #:	2910 (In DSPS building)
Class Dates:	8/14/23 – 12/9/23	Office Hours:	Via Zoom: MTW 9 – 10 am Via Zoom: Thursday 8 – 9 am
Class Days:	TR	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6120
Class Times:	1:00 – 3:35 pm	Emergency Contact:	Email
Units:	4	Class Format:	Face to face (on ground)

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 generally be teaching with a voice off approach, after the first few weeks. This will increase your receptive and expressive comprehension, as you will be asked to respond in ASL. You will be participating in a variety of class exercises designed to increase both your receptive and expressive skills. Please arrive to class on time, ready to start signing.

The instructor knows that you will not understand 100% of her signing. The necessary information is delivered to you via in class notes accompanying the lecture and information loaded onto Canvas.

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. Your homework will be submitted via Canvas. It is easier for your instructor to keep track of your homework on Canvas.

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

Grading will be based on a standard distribution (see below). **You are allowed to submit one late homework for full credit.** If you are ill, you will make up any in class presentations the day you return to class. If written homework is due the day you are absent, you can submit it via Canvas to the instructor. No other late homework will be accepted.

Grading will be based on a standard distribution (i.e., 90-100% = A, 80-89.9% = B). There will be 1,000 points possible during the course.

Participation	150 (includes class labs, no voice, following class rules)
Homework	180 (includes written and signed homework)
Exams	300
Quizzes	150
Paper	50
Presentations	50 (2 @ 25 points each)
Section finals	70 (2 @ 35 points each)
Interactive final	50 (signing one on one with the instructor)

TOTAL 1,000

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.



Course Policies

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

1 – Pay attention to the best of your ability – Class is long, and there are lots of things that can grab our attention. Please stay as focused as possible during class. We will be doing different activities to hopefully help you stay focused. If you need to go get food or take a brief break, please do so. **PLEASE KEEP YOUR PHONES OFF AND AWAY DURING CLASS, unless specified otherwise.**

2 – If you have a question, ask the instructor, not your classmates. Of course you will have an opportunity to discuss things with your classmates in the 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're in your jammies in the Zoom room – as long as you don't sleep nude! 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 (!!!!)].



Other Course Information

Your instructor believes that we can still create a learning community – and a signing community – in class. 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.

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

DATE	IN CLASS	HOMEWORK
8/15 (T)	Syllabus, course expectations, ASL v English Fingerspelling introduction, signer's perspective, shapes Introduction to fingerspelling	Buy text Read syllabus, note questions List of 10 items, name
8/17 (R)	Quiz #1 (Shapes, syllabus) Shapes, fingerspelling Deaf Intro – Part B PH 1 vocab	Practice Deaf Intro Read PH 1 Practice PH 1 vocab List of 10 items for F/S
8/22 (T)	NMMs, sentence types PH 1 vocab Deaf Intro – Part A	Practice PH 1 & 2 Read PH 2 Practice Deaf Intro
8/24 (R) WATCH RECORDING COME TO CLASS AT 2:30	Quiz #2 (fingerspelling, PH 1 vocab) ASL Grammar PH 2 vocab PH 1 & 2 review	Gloss Practice Sentences Read PH 3 Practice PH 1 & 2 Practice Presentation #1 Read Packet as assigned
8/29 (T) WATCH RECORDING COME TO CLASS AT 2:30	Practice Sentences due PH 3: Vocabulary Practice Presentation #1	Practice PH 3 vocab Practice Presentation #1
8/31 (R) WATCH RECORDING	Quiz #3 (PH 1 & 2, NMMs) PH 3 Grammar: Directional verbs and noun-verb pairs Presentation #1 practice	Practice Presentation #1 Review PH 1-3



COME TO CLASS AT 2:30		
9/5 (T)	Presentation #1 Review PH 1-3 Numbers 1- 20 Paper discussion Review for Exam #1	Read PH 4 Practice PH 3A – 3C
9/7 (R)	Quiz #4 (PH 3, etc.) Study guide for Exam #1 PH 4: Physical Description sequence introduced Supercharacter introductions	Study for Exam #1 Practice for Exam #1 Get supercharacter visuals
9/12 (T)	Supercharacter visuals due Practice Exam #1 Review for Exam #1 Presentation #2 discussed Physical description sequence reviewed PH 4 vocab	Study for Exam #1 Practice for Exam #1 Read PH 4 Practice PH 4 vocab
9/14 (R)	PH 4 vocab reviewed Physical descriptions reviewed; questions EXAM #1 (PH 1-3, packet, ASL grammar, NMMs, fingerspelling, shapes, numbers 1-20)	Decide who for Presentation #2 Practice PH 4 vocab
9/19 (T)	Quiz #5 (Classmates) Pronominalization Presentation #2 gloss explained PH 8 vocab PH 8: tense, use of FINISH Numbers: 21 - 66	Read PH 8 Practice PH 8 vocab Gloss Presentation #2 Practice Supercharacters
9/21 (R)	Quiz #6 (Faces) Extra credit opportunity: Supercharacter description PH 6 vocabulary Presentation #2 gloss due Select vocabulary for Presentation #2 Presentation #2 modeled	Practice Supercharacters Practice PH 4 vocab Read PH 6 Practice PH 6 vocab Practice Presentation #2
9/26 (T)	Quiz #7 (Outfits) Quiz #8 (Supercharacters – Liisa picks) PH 6: Negation in ASL, modals Lecture: Connecticut School	Practice PH 6 vocab Practice Presentation #2 Locate pictures for Presentation #2
9/28 (R)	Presentation #2 Who whats Face page distributed and explained Lecture: Connecticut School wrap up	Practice PH 1- 4, 6, 8 Read PH 5 Gloss and practice 10 who whats Practice numbers 1 - 66 Complete and practice face page Review notes from lecture
10/3 (T)	Paper topic due Face page due Who whats due	Gloss and practice 5 ASL requests Review PH 4, 6, 8 Practice PH 5 vocab



	PH 5 vocabulary PH 5: ASL Requests Noun-verb pairs and trios	
10/5 (R)	Quiz #9 (Who whats – PH 4, 6, 8) ASL requests due Study Guide for Exam #2 Begin review for Exam #2 Deaf Culture interaction	Review notes, questions Review for PH 4-6, 8 Find 2 sources for paper Begin researching paper
10/10 (T)	Quiz #10 (2 sources due) PH 7: Classifiers Practice Exam #2 Review for Exam #2	Study for Exam #2 Practice for Exam #2 Review for Exam #2 Work on paper
10/12(R)	Interactive Section Finals #1 EXAM #2 (PH 1-6, 8, pronominalization, noun-verb pairs, ASL requests, physical description, supercharacters, Connecticut School, face page, Deaf culture interaction, fingerspelling, numbers 1-66)	Read PH 7 Research paper Continue writing paper
10/17 (T)	Quiz #11 (CL) PH 7 vocabulary PH 7: Classifiers Numbers 67 – 100, number incorporation Quantifiers	Practice CL PH 7A – 7C Read PH 8 Study for quiz Practice numbers 1-100 Work on paper
10/19 (R)	PH 10: vocabulary PH 10 classifiers Lab #7: PH 7 & 8	Practice PH 7 vocab Read PH 10 Practice PH 10B, 10C Practice PH 10 vocab
10/24 (T)	Lab CL review and clarification PH 10: FLS, reverse directional verbs, routines	10 routines glossed and practiced Practice PH 10 vocab
10/26 (R)	Quiz #12 (PH 7 & 8) PH 10 Lab #8: PH 10, begin review	Read PH 9
1031 (T)	PH 9 vocabulary PH 9: signing clock time, signing age	Gloss and sign 10 when what whos Practice PH 9A – 9D Practice numbers 1-100 Review notes for Congress of Milan
11/2 (R)	Quiz #13 (PH 10) PH 9 & 10 wrap up When what who's Lab #9: PH 1-10	Practice 1A – 10D Review notes, PH 7A-10D Gloss & practice 10 when what who's
11/7 (T)	Review for Exam #3 Practice Exam #3 Review PH 1- 10	Review for Exam #3 Begin review PH 1-10
11/9 (R)	TBA	As assigned



11/14 (T)	Interactive Section Finals #2 EXAM #3 (PH 1-10, focus on 7-10, classifiers, numbers 1-100, FLS, routines, when what whos, etc.)	Study for Exam #3 Practice for Exam #3
11/16 (R)	PH 11: vocabulary, grammar PH 11: signing money Grocery shopping pattern PH 12: vocabulary, grammar	Get grocery flyer Make list of 10 Practice list, read PH 11
11/21, 11/23	NO CLASSES: Thanksgiving Break	
11/28 (T)	Grocery shopping list due Grocery shopping list practice Lab: PH 11 & 12, grocery shopping, signing money, etc.	Practice PH 11A – C Read PH 12 Practice PH 12 vocab Practice PH 12A – 12C
11/30 (R)	PH 11 & 12 review Lab: PH 1 & 12 Receptive practice for big quiz Rotation review FINAL QUIZ: PH 11 & 12 Preparation for finals	Prepare for final
12/5, 12/7	FINALS – interactive conversations with instructor by appointment	

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****

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 1 of them will be offered on campus. 3 events will be offered via Zoom.