



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2024	Instructor Name:	Liisa Mendoza
Course Title & #:	American Sign Language 1 – AMSL 100	Email:	liisa.mendoza@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10198	Webpage (optional):	N/A
Classroom:	303	Office #:	312
Class Dates:	8/12/24 – 12/7/24	Office Hours:	Via Zoom: MW 9 – 10 am TR 7:25 – 7:55 am and 9: 30 – 10 am (on ground)
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: [I've Always Wanted to Learn ASL](#). Mendoza, L. and I. Harvard. ISBN 979 -8-38511-504-4.

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
Deaf Awareness Project	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.

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

MH = Mendoza and Harvard, your textbook



DATE	IN CLASS	HOMEWORK
8/13 (T) Week 1	Syllabus, course expectations, ASL v English Fingerspelling introduction, signer's perspective, shapes Introduction to fingerspelling	Buy text Read syllabus, note questions
8/15 (R) Week 1	Quiz #1 (Shapes, syllabus) Shapes, fingerspelling Parameters Deaf culture concept Definitions	Practice Deaf Intro Read MH 1 Practice fingerspelling HW: List of 10 items for F/S
8/20 (T) Week 2	Deaf Intro – Part B Deaf culture facts Numbers 1 - 20	Practice MH 2 vocab Read MH 2 Practice Deaf Intro Part B
8/22 (R) Week 2	Quiz #2 (fingerspelling, shapes) MH 2 vocab Numbers 21-30 MH 1 & 2 review Deaf Intro – Part A	Read MH 3 Practice MH 2 and Deaf Intro Practice Presentation #1 Practice numbers 1-30
8/27 (T) Week 3	Deaf Intro – NMMs MH 3: NMMs MH 3: Vocabulary Practice Presentation #1	Practice MH 3 vocab Practice Presentation #1 with NMMs
8/29 (R) Week 3	Quiz #3 (MH 1 & 2, NMMs) MH 3 MH 3: Syntax MH 3 Grammar: Directional verbs and noun-verb pairs Presentation #1 practice	Practice Presentation #1 Practice MH 1- 3 vocab Come up with additional Presentation #1 question HW: Gloss Practice Sentences
9/3 (T) Week 4	Extra vocab for Presentation #1 Review MH 1-3 MH 4: VOCAB Deaf Awareness Project discussion Final practice for Presentation #1 Study guide for Exam #1	Read MH 4 Practice Deaf Intro Practice MH 1-4 vocab
9/5 (R) Week 4	Presentation #1 Quiz #4 (MH 3, syntax, NMMs) MH 4: Compound sign rule, pronominalization	Practice MH 4 vocab Review and practice for Exam #1
9/10 (T) Week 5	Quiz #5 (MH 4) Practice Exam #1 Review for Exam #1 MH 5 vocab	Review and practice for Exam #1 Practice MH 1-4
9/12 (R) Week 5	EXAM #1 (MH 1-4, ASL syntax, NMMs, fingerspelling, shapes, numbers 1-20)	Read MH 5 Practice MH 5 vocab
9/17 (T)	MH 5: The agent Simple request structure MH 5: Educational options for Deaf people MH 5: Verb pairs and trios	HW: Gloss 5 requests you can sign



Week 6		
9/19 (R) Week 6	Quiz #6 (MH 5: Requests and vocab) MH 6: Connecticut School MH 6 vocab	Practice MH 6 vocab Read MH 6
9/24 (T) Week 7	MH 7: Vocab MH 7: Time signs Martha's Vineyard	Read MH 7 Practice MH 7 vocab Review notes for quiz
9/26 (R) Week 7	Quiz #7 (Connecticut School, Martha's Vineyard) MH 7: FLS When What Whos	Practice FLS Practice MH 7 vocab HW: Gloss and practice 10 when what whos
10/1 (T) Week 8	Deaf Awareness Project topic due Study Guide for Exam #2 Begin review for Exam #2	Review MH 5-7 Practice MH 5-7 vocab Review MH 1-7 vocab
10/3 (R) Week 8	Quiz #9 (When What Whos. MH 7) Practice Exam #2 MH 8: Physical Description sequence (people)	Review notes, questions Study and practice for Exam #2 HW: Find 2 sources for Deaf Awareness Project
10/8 (T) Week 9	Quiz #10 (2 sources due) Interactive Section Finals #1 MH 8: Physical description sequence (outfits) MH 8: Vocab	Study for Exam #2 Practice for Exam #2 Review for Exam #2 Work on paper
10/10 (R) Week 9	EXAM #2 (MH 5-7, noun-verb pairs, ASL requests, Connecticut School, when what whos) Supercharacter list Presentation #2 explained	Read MH 8 Practice MH 8 HW: Find Supercharacter visuals
10/15 (T) Week 10	Physical description sequence reviewed Glossing a supercharacter Presentation #2 sequence Describing classmates sequence	HW: Supercharacter gloss Pick 2 people for Presentation #2 HW: Supercharacter extra vocab list
10/17 (R) Week 10	Quiz #11 (Outfits) Glossing Presentation #2 explained Personality vocab preview Supercharacter extra vocab modeled	HW: Gloss Presentation #2 Practice Supercharacters Read MH 9
10/22 (T) Week 11	MH 9: Personality signs Who whats Additional Presentation #2 vocab	HW: 10 Who Whats Practice MH 9 vocab Practice Presentation #2 Practice Supercharacters
10/24 (R) Week 11	Quiz #12 (Faces) Face Page introduced MH 9: Navigating a signing environment MH 9: Deaf Awareness in media	Read MH 10 HW: Face page Practice Presentation #2 Work on Deaf Awareness Project



	MH 10: Classifiers	Practice Supercharacters
10/29 (T) Week 12	Presentation #2 MH 10: Classifiers MH 10: Vocab	Practice Supercharacters Practice MH 8-10 vocab
10/31 (R) Week 12	Quiz #13 (Supercharacters – Liisa picks) BIG Lab Study guide for Exam #3	Work on Deaf Awareness Project
11/5 (T) Week 13	Interactive Section Finals #2 Review for Exam #3 Practice Exam #3	Review for Exam #3 Study Exam #3 Practice Exam #3
11/7 (R) Week 13	Exam #3 (MH 1-10, focus on 8-10, numbers 1-66, classifiers, physical description, Supercharacters, face page, Deaf culture interaction)	Finish Deaf Awareness Project
11/12 (T) Week 14	Deaf Awareness Project due (NO LATE PROJECTS ACCEPTED)	HW: Get grocery flyer Read MH 11
11/14 (R) Week 14	MH 11: Vocab Numbers 67-100 Grocery shopping list pattern Signing money	HW: Grocery shopping list Practice signing money Practice list
11/19 (T) Week 15	Grocery shopping list due Grocery shopping list practice Begin cumulative review	Prepare for quiz Review Deaf Intro Review and practice
11/21 (R)	Quiz #14 (MH 11) Practice for interactive finals Sign up for finals	Prepare for final
11/26, 11/28	NO CLASSES: Thanksgiving Break	Avoid turkey coma Return for your final as scheduled
12/3, 12/5	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 several Deaf events offered this semester. Some of them will be on campus, some will be via Zoom, and some will be in other locations (both locally – including El Centro, Imperial, SDSU Calexico, and also in Coachella Valley).