

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2025	Instructor Name:	Alejandra Galaviz
Course Title & #:	AMSL 100	Email:	alejandra.galaviz@imperial.edu
CRN #:	21273	Webpage (optional):	None
Classroom:	ONLINE	Office #:	Canvas
Class Dates:	Feb. 10th, 2025 – June 6th, 2025	Office Hours:	Friday 4:00-8:00 PM Canvas
Class Days:	ONLINE	Office Phone #:	None
Class Times:	ONLINE	Emergency Contact:	None
Units:	4.0		

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.

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

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. [ILO1, ILO2]*
- 2. Recognize basic differences between simple ASL and English sentence structure. [ILO1, ILO2]*
- 3. Identify basic differences between Deaf and Hearing cultures. [ILO2, ILO5]*

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 basic knowledge of American Sign Language syntax.*
- 6. Sign presentations, following the criteria and topics indicated by the instructor.*
- 7. Participate 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.

Required Textbook

Galaviz, Alejandra (2024). Deaf Culture: Stories from the Imperial Valley (1st/e.) Kendall & Hunt. ISBN: 9798765795217

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Exam in Module 11 will be cumulative – worth 100 points

Quizzes & Homework-

No make-up quizzes will be given. After the instructor completes lesson/activity in class, homework will be assigned. Homework will be due on before, after or during quiz days. Additionally, students are expected to practice the signs that they have learned in class, at least one hour every day. Get to know each other and set up practice groups right away.

*There are no make-up tests or quizzes. If missing a test or quiz is unavoidable, you make up the points by doubling the next test or quiz. You may only do this ONCE!

Discussion Boards (Assignments)-

Examples of Presentations

Individual Dialogue: You do a 1 ½ -2 minute dialogue in ASL. The ASL conversation should look very natural. Do not look at the paper while you are signing because it will make your signing appear unnatural.

1. Introduce yourself and pretend that you are talking to me. (Write and submit your own script)
2. Manual Alphabet
3. Numbers 1-21
4. Closure comment
5. Asking/telling where, how to come or go to a place, about marital status, have children/siblings, how many,
6. Wh-questions: Where, How
7. Nouns-verb pairs
8. Numbers 31-50, Time signs

Final Video Project-

See Canvas for Instructions and Grading Criteria

XIII. Recommended Websites:

1. <https://imperial.blackboard.com/>
2. <http://www.lifeprint.com/>
3. <http://www.youtube.com/user/Olsonterp>
4. <http://www.signingsavvy.com/>

5. <http://www.asl.ms/>

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	
CORE CONTENT	APPROX. % OF COURSE
Sign numbers from zero to one million	5.00%
Fingerspell and recognize words form the manual alphabet (a minimum of 3 letter words)	5.00%
Vocabulary development 25-30 new signs a week	30.00%
American Sign Language grammar	20.00%
Presentations, student activities and participation	15.00%
Classifiers: size, shape, location, vehicles, people, etc.	10.00%
Directional verbs	5.00%
Forming questions in ASL	5.00%
Deaf Culture issues	5.00%
TOTAL	100%

2. Homework (x6)	110
3. Quizzes (x6)	123
4. Tests (2@ 100 points each)	200
5. Presentations (3 @50 points each)	150
6. Interactive Final Examination (signing one-on-one with instructor)	200
Total Points:	1000

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

Note: All quizzes and examinations are cumulative unless otherwise stated.

Save all your Tests, Quizzes, and Papers. If you have a dispute with a recorded grade (or an absent grade), you will have to provide the original test, quiz, or paper to refute it.

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

Students shall assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the college's function as an educational institution. Students shall observe the rules and regulations of the College and shall refrain from conduct which interferes with the College's teaching and administration, or which unreasonably interferes with the rights of others. Misconduct while on the college campus or at a College-sponsored function for which students and student organizations are subject to disciplinary action.

Mastering Sign Language requires much time and commitment. You will need to practice outside of the 90 hours that we will spend in class

In addition, I try to maintain a "no voice" environment to enhance students' learning, but there will be times that I will use my voice to explain concepts or answer questions that time would not allow otherwise.

- **Electronic Devices:** You may utilize mobile devices such as iPads, tablets, smartphones, or laptops during classroom lecture and activities **ONLY** to further your learning of American Sign Language. However, no electronic device can be used and must be turned off during classroom examinations. This is subject to change.
- **Food and Drink** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.

- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

Online Netiquette

- 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 (!!!)].

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services which may be available.

- **CANVAS LMS.** Canvas is Imperial Valley College's main Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: [Canvas Student Login](#). The [Canvas Student Guides Site](#) provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, a 24/7 Canvas Support Hotline is available for students to use: 877-893-9853.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your [Campus Map](#) for the [Math Lab](#); [Reading, Writing & Language Labs](#); and the [Study Skills Center](#).
- **Library Services.** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the [Study Skills Center](#), study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the [Disabled Student Programs and Services \(DSP&S\)](#) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provide basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC [Student Health Center](#) at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family and group counseling services are available for currently enrolled students. Services are provided in a confidential, supportive, and culturally sensitive environment. Please contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6310 or in the building 1536 for appointments or more information.

Veteran's Center

The mission of the [IVC Military and Veteran Success Center](#) is to provide a holistic approach to serving military/veteran students on three key areas: 1) Academics, 2) Health and Wellness, and 3) Camaraderie; to serve as a central hub that connects military/veteran students, as well as their families, to campus and community resources. Their goal is to ensure a seamless transition from military to civilian life. The Center is located in Building 600 (Office 624), telephone 760-355-6141.

Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) offers services such as priority registration, personal/academic counseling, tutoring, book vouchers, and community referrals to qualifying low-income students. EOPS is composed of a group of professionals ready to assist you with the resolution of both academic and personal issues. Our staff is set up to understand the problems of our culturally diverse population and strives to meet student needs that are as diverse as our student population.

Also under the umbrella of EOPS our CARE (Cooperative Agency Resources for Education) Program for single parents is specifically designed to provide support services and assist with the resolution of issues that are particular to this population. Students that are single parents receiving TANF/Cash Aid assistance may qualify for our CARE program, for additional information on CARE please contact Lourdes Mercado, 760-355- 6448, lourdes.mercado@imperial.edu.

EOPS provides additional support and services that may identify with one of the following experiences:

- Current and former foster youth students that were in the foster care system at any point in their lives
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Formerly incarcerated students

To apply for EOPS and for additional information on EOPS services, please contact Alexis Ayala, 760-355-5713, alexis.ayala@imperial.edu.

Student Equity Program

- The Student Equity Program strives to improve Imperial Valley College's success outcomes, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented and underserved. The college identifies strategies to monitor and address equity issues, making efforts to mitigate any disproportionate impact on student success and achievement. Our institutional data provides insight surrounding student populations who historically, are not fully represented. Student Equity addresses disparities and/or disproportionate impact in student success across disaggregated student equity groups including gender, ethnicity, disability status, financial need, Veterans, foster youth, homelessness, and formerly incarcerated students. The Student Equity Program provides direct supportive services to empower students experiencing insecurities related to food, housing, transportation, textbooks, and shower access. We recognize that students who struggle meeting their basic needs are also at an academic and economic disadvantage, creating barriers to academic success and wellness. We strive to remove barriers that affect IVC students' access to education, degree and certificate completion, successful completion of developmental math and English courses, and the ability to transfer to a university. Contact: 760.355.5736 or 760.355.5733 Building 100.
- The Student Equity Program also houses IVC's Homeless Liaison, who provides direct services, campus, and community referrals to students experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. Contact: 760.355.5736 Building 100.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC [General Catalog](#).

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC [Library Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****

Note: Modules open on Mondays and Assignments are due by Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week of	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic
February 10	Module 0
February 17	Module 0 Cont'd...
February 24	Module 1
March 3	Module 2
March 10	Module 3
March 17	Module 4
March 24	Module 5
March 31	Module 6
April 7	Module 7
April 14	Module 8
April 20 – 26	Spring Recess
April 28	Module 9
May 5	Module 10
May 12	Module 11
May 19	Deaf Culture Presentation
May 26	Start Final Video Project
June 2	Exam
June 2	Final Video Project Due this Week
June 6	Last Day of the Semester