



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Liisa Mendoza
Course Title & #:	American Sign Language 2 – AMSL 102	Email:	liisa.mendoza@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10200	Webpage (optional):	N/A
Classroom:	412	Office #:	312
Class Dates:	8/11/25 – 12/6/25	Office Hours:	Via Zoom: MW 9 – 10 am On ground: TR 9:00 – 10:00 am (312)
Class Days:	TR	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6120
Class Times:	1:00 – 3:30 pm	Emergency Contact:	Email
Units:	4	Class Format:	Face to face, on ground

Course Description

Receptive and expressive skills will be further developed through vocabulary enrichment, grammar practice, and interactive conversational exercises. Deaf culture norms and traditions will be studied in class.

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

Recommended preparation: AMSL 100 (American Sign Language 1)

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) Distinguish correct facial grammar for six basic sentence types, recognizing the type of sentence that is being produced.
- 2) Convert simple written English sentences to grammatically correct ASL sentences.
- 3) Identify some historical features and developments in American Deaf culture.



Course Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of approximately 30-35 new vocabulary signs per week.
2. Recognize commonly fingerspelled words up to five letters at a beginning-intermediate pace.
3. Demonstrate basic knowledge of number incorporation relating to time signs.
4. Discuss in ASL topics related to employment, sports, activities, health and illness, classes, and current events.
5. Express skill, opinions, satisfaction, beliefs and advice with the selection of the appropriate signs.
6. Politely decline an ASL request or invitation.
7. Give directions to specified locations and describe the locations using classifiers.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of Deaf Culture's use of modern technology for accessible communication.
9. Describe important events in American Deaf history, including the Congress of Milan.
10. Display and recognize correct facial grammar for conditional sentences and rhetorical questions.

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.

Here is the link to buy the text:

https://he.kendallhunt.com/mendoza_harvard

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 on ground. **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, and you cannot do that signing to yourself into a mirror.

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 need to do homework and practice outside of class. 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. Most quizzes will be given in class. There is no way to make up quizzes given in class. **There are no time limits on exams.** Every exam given in class will usually have at least double the time needed to complete the exam. This is because everyone takes exams differently, and some people need more time to complete the exam than others.

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 participation, no voice, following class rules)
Homework	175 (includes written and signed homework)
Exams	300
Quizzes	150
Presentations	50 (2 @ 25 points each)
Section finals	75 (3 @ 25 points each)
Interactive final	50 (signing one on one with the instructor)
Deaf Event report	50

TOTAL 1,000



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 30 Deaf events during this semester, some offered via Zoom. You are REQUIRED to attend 1 Deaf event, and type a report about it. You may attend a second event for extra credit.

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

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

1 – Pay attention to the best of your ability – Please focus on the class and the material we are learning while you are in class. Some days you will be able to focus more than others: do the best you can. No cell phones, unless I say to use them or you are using them to take a picture of the notes. (And then you still need to write the notes down, or you'll never remember the info.) If you need to do something elsewhere, please leave the class and return when you can focus on it. If you are going to be in class, *BE IN CLASS*.

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.



I will monitor you while you are taking your exams, and you REALLY don't want to cheat. Your integrity is something that no one can take from you. Don't give it away.

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 create a strong learning community through connection. We will be interacting with each other during every class, 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 & Harvard (your text)

DATE	IN CLASS	HOMEWORK
8/12 (T)	Syllabus, course expectations Review: numbers 1-100 Number incorporation MH 11: Signing money	Purchase text Read syllabus Practice numbers 1-100 Practice signing money Get grocery store flyer
8/14 (R)	MH 11: Vocab MH 11: Signing money PH 11: Grocery shopping model	Make grocery list of 10 items Practice shopping pattern Practice signing money



		Practice MH 11 vocab Read MH 11
8/19 (T)	Grocery lists due (Quiz #1 – written only) Orientation to text Review: Deaf v deaf MH 12: Vocab MH 12: Sentence type and NMM review	Read MH 12 Practice MH 12 vocab Practice grocery list 5 NMM index cards
8/21 (R)	Quiz #2 (MH 11, grocery shopping) MH 12: To not have MH 12: Syntax and glossing review MH 12: Request structure	Gloss 5 requests that you can sign Practice lab activities as assigned
8/26 (T)	MH 13: Vocabulary MH 13 grammar: Declining structure Lab: MH 11, 12, 13	Read MH 13 Gloss MH 13C Practice MH 13 vocab
8/28 (R)	Quiz #3 (MH 11 and 12, requests) MH 13C due MH 13: Negation in ASL MH 13: To not work	Practice MH 13 vocab Practice MH 13 lab exercises as assigned
9/2 (T)	MH 14: Vocab MH 14: Conditional sentences – NMMs MH 14: Conditional sentences - glossing	Gloss 10 conditional sentences Read MH 14 Practice MH 14 vocab
9/4 (R)	Quiz #4 (MH 13, declining in ASL) MH 14: Rhetorical sentences – NMMS Rhetorical sentences - Glossing Study guide for Exam #1 Review for Exam #1	Gloss 5 rhetorical sentences Review MH 11-14 Study for Exam #1 Practice for Exam #1 Practice MH 11-14
9/9 (T)	Interactive Section Finals (rotations) Quiz #5 (Sentence type identification, glossing) Practice Exam #1 Exam #1 prep	Practice for Exam #1 Study for Exam #1
9/11 (R)	EXAM #1 (MH 11, 12, 13, 14; NMMs, basic ASL grammar, requests, refusing requests, grocery shopping, sentence types, conditionals, rhetorical)	Read MH 15
9/16 (T)	MH 15: Vocab MH 15: Continuum concept MH 15: Quantifiers, frequency, skills continuums	Practice MH 15 vocab Practice continuums
9/18 (R)	MH 15: Opinion continuums, satisfaction continuums MH 15 labs	



9/23 (T)	Quiz #6 (Continuums) MH 16: Vocab MH 16: Calendar introduced	Read MH 16 Calendar with 10 activities Practice events and calendar
9/25 (R)	MH 16: Time sign and number incorporation MH 16: Temporal inflection Presentation #1 specifics Model calendar quiz	Practice signing events and calendar Script for Presentation #1 Practice MH 16 vocab
9/30 (T)	MH 17: Vocab MH 17: Congress of Milan MH 17: AG Bell Work on script	Practice MH 17 vocab Read MH 17 Review notes
10/2 (R)	Quiz #7 (Calendar) Script for Presentation #1 due Gloss coordination for Presentation #1	Review MH 11-17 Finish script Read MH 18 Practice MH 18
10/7 (T)	Interactive section finals #2 (rotations) Practice Exam #2 Vocab for Presentation #1 MH 18: Vocab	Study for Exam #2 Practice for Exam #2
10/9 (R)	Exam #2 (MH 15,16,17) Presentation #1 gloss coordination	Read MH 18 Practice MH 18 Gloss Presentation #1
10/14 (T)	Presentation #1 vocab Presentation #1 gloss due Classifier review MH 18: PCLs MH 18: Pluralization in ASL	Practice Presentation #1 Practice MH 18 MH 18 as assigned
10/16 (R)	Quiz #9 (written: MH 18) Practice for Presentation #1 MH 19: vocab	Practice Presentation #1 Read MH 19 Practice MH 19 VOCAB
10/21 (T)	Quiz #10 (MH 18: receptive) Presentation #1 MH 19: Idioms and conceptual accuracy Practice MH 18	Read MH 20
10/23 (R)	MH 20: Vocab MH 20: Special verbs, BPCLs, ICLs	Outline Presentation #2 Vocab for Presentation #2 Practice for 1:1 quiz
10/28 (T)	Big Lab: MH 11-20 Quiz #11 (1:1 with Liisa) Presentation #2 specifications	Practice MH 20 vocab Review MH 11-20 Presentation #2 consideration



		Read MH 21
10/30 (R)	MH 21: Vocab MH 21: Complaints and accusations	Practice MH 21 vocab Gloss 5 complaints Outline Presentation #2
11/4 (T)	Quiz #12 (MH 19 & 20) Outline for Presentation #2 due MH 22: vocabulary	Practice MH 22 vocab
11/6 (R)	Presentation #2 practice MH 22: Vocabulary MH 22: Cultural content Study guide for Exam #3 Presentation #2 vocabulary	Practice Presentation #2 Review MH 11-22 Practice MH 22 Review for Exam #3 Conversational review
11/11 (T)	VETERANS DAY	
11/13 (R)	Quiz #13 (MH 21 & 22) Lab: PH 1 – 24 Presentation #2 vocab Practice Presentation #2 Practice Exam #3	Review for Exam #3 Practice Presentation #2 Conversational review Study for Exam #3 Review PH 1-24
11/18 (T)	Interactive Section Finals #3 (rotations) EXAM #3 (MH 18 – 22)	Practice Presentation #2 Review PH 1 -24 Breathe easier Type up remaining deaf event reports
11/20 (R)	Final Deaf Event Reports due Presentation #2 Guidelines for finals, review for finals	
11/25, 11/27	NO CLASSES: THANKSGIVING BREAK	
12/2, 12/4	FINALS: Interactive conversations with instructor, by appointment only	

Subject to change without prior notice