



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Liisa Mendoza
Course Title & #:	American Sign Language 3 – AMSL 200	Email:	liisa.mendoza@imperial.edu
CRN #:	11372	Webpage (optional):	N/A
Classroom:	206	Office #:	312
Class Dates:	8/11/25 – 12/6/25	Office Hours:	Via Zoom: MW 9:00 – 10:00 am On ground: 9:00 – 10:00 am
Class Days:	TR	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6120
Class Times:	10:15 AM – 12:45 PM	Emergency Contact:	Email
Units:	4	Class Format:	Face to face, on ground

Course Description

This course continues the development of American Sign Language conversational skills, and awareness of specific ASL linguistic structures. Techniques of facial grammar, role shift, and classifier use as it relates to American Sign Language and Deaf Culture will be studied. Students will expand their knowledge of ASL grammar, usage of space, and syntax.

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

Recommended preparation: AMSL 102 (American Sign Language 2)

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. Represent visual information using correct ASL structures. [ILO1, ILO3]
2. Identify the correct facial grammar for a given description. [ILO1,ILO2]
3. Examine ASL literary devices and American Deaf humor. [ILO1,ILO2, ILO5]



Course Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate receptive comprehension of fingerspelled words at a high intermediate level.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of approximately 25-30 signs per week.
3. Demonstrate appropriate role shifting, both physically and emotionally, at an intermediate-advanced level.
4. Evaluate ASL stories and conversations.
5. Assess the use of appropriate cultural behaviors as applied to ASL and the Deaf community.
6. Expand expressive and receptive skills in ASL, including vocabulary targeted for complex conversations and topics.
7. Be exposed to Deaf Culture's use of creative poetry, songs, cheers, handshape stories, storytelling, and legends.
8. Distinguish between different types of classifiers and their appropriate usage.
9. Demonstrate receptive and expressive ability to identify and produce basic, intermediate, and intermediate-advanced facial grammar.
10. Distinguish between different types of verbal inflection in ASL.
11. Demonstrate appropriate use of classifiers, role shift and facial grammar through labs and presentations.
12. Demonstrate the ability to navigate an ASL environment, without the use of voice or writing to communicate.
13. Distinguish between the different types of responses to ASL requests, and recognize appropriate content in each type.
14. Attend and participate in events where ASL is the primary mode of communication, and analyze their experiences.
15. Compose and present narratives that display a mastery of the targeted lexicon.
16. Increase understanding of Deaf culture through examination of Deaf humor, including ASL jokes and stories.
17. Increase cultural awareness through learning signs for different countries, including signs used by that country's sign language.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required texts: No required text this semester. There will be required video links and homework assignments loaded into Canvas.



Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Teaching Strategy:

The instructor will be teaching face to face, 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 in the 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 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. A few quizzes will be given in the Zoom classroom. Most quizzes will be given through the Canvas system, but not using the Canvas quiz feature. You will be given the question file and a link to a recording. You will then click on the recording and start the quiz. The exams will be administered the same way. **There are no time limits on exams or quizzes,** as you may need to watch the recordings a few times if your wifi glitches or goes down.

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.

It is generally best to submit any emails directly to the instructor's IVC email, as Canvas does not alert the instructor that assignments have been submitted.

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. Extra credit will be given by submission of a third Deaf event report.

Labs	300 (participation, no voice, following class rules, Deaf interaction, achieved via attending class, or meeting with the tutor)
Presentation labs	50 (presenting in class)
Homework	150 (includes written and signed homework)
Exams & quizzes	300 (includes written and signed)
Section finals	
75	
Final presentation	50 (1 @ 50 points)
Deaf event reports	75 (3 events @ 25 points each)
TOTAL	1,000

Your grades will be posted regularly in Canvas, the electronic course management system. Additionally, any communications (unexpected class cancelations, etc.) will be announced via Canvas.

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 20 Deaf events during this semester, some offered via Zoom and some on ground at various locations. You are REQUIRED to attend 3 Deaf events, and type a report about it. You may attend a fourth 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 – Sometimes life gets in the way of learning. Try your very best to stay present and focused during class. This class will be challenging, as it is primarily in ASL. You will need to be able to pay attention to get the most out of your experience.

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 labs, and you may clarify things with each other. The embedded tutor will also be a great source of information and signing support. 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. Please don't try and test this boundary with me. Your honor 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 learning community – and a signing community – in the classroom. 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.

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.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

PH = Padden and Humphries (blue book used in ASL 1 and 2 for some classes)

MH = Mendoza and Harvard (ebook used in ASL 1 and 2 for some classes)

DATE	IN CLASS	HOMEWORK
8/12 (T)	Welcome, syllabus Facial grammar v facial expression NMM review 4 basic sentence types review Basic ASL grammar review PH 13/MH 14: Conditional sentences PH 21/MH 14 : Rhetorical questions	Read syllabus Note questions Complete survey and submit via Canvas Purchase text 7 index cards: NMMs
8/14 (R)	Quiz #1 (Syllabus, Day 1)	Gloss 5 conditional sentences



	PH 13/MH 14: Conditional sentences PH 21/MH 14: Rhetorical questions PH 22/MH 20 vocab: The body, health and illness vocab Lab: NMMs, table completed Self-care and schedules	Practice signing all sentences Gloss 5 rhetorical questions Self-care semester plan Weekly life schedule plan
8/19 (T)	10 sentences, self-care plan, weekly life schedule plan due Presentation options Temporal inflection introduced Lab: Sentence types, vocab by category, inflection	Begin finding movies for scene selection Review time signs Review notes Prepare for quiz
8/21 (R)	Quiz #2 (sentence type identification – 6 basic sentences, basic glossing) Temporal inflection completed Complaint structure introduced Vocabulary: Complaints Lab: Temporal inflection	5 complaints you can sign Practice Body, Health and Illness vocab Video homework as assigned
8/26 (T)	Lecture: 3 types of special verbs Lecture: ASL requests Lab: Complaints, inflection	3 lists of special verbs (5 each) 5 requests that you can sign
5 8/28 (R)	Quiz #3 (temporal inflection) Lecture: Responding to ASL requests Lab: Requests, responding to requests	Video homework as assigned
9/2 (T)	Cumulative review Study guide Exam #1 Preparation for rotations	Study, review and practice for Exam #1
9/4 (R)	Quiz #4 (Requests) Responding to requests reviewed Cumulative review Study guide Exam #1	Review for Exam #1 Practice for Exam #1 Video homework as assigned
9/9 (T)	Interactive Section Finals for Exam #1 Questions answered re: Exam #1	Study, review and practice for Exam #1



9/11 (R)	EXAM #1 (Basic ASL grammar, sentence type identification, temporal inflection, conditional sentences, rhetorical, locative verbs, directional verbs, requests, complaints)	Select your scene for final presentation Come back on Tuesday
9/16 (T)	SCENE SELECTION DUE FOR PRESENTATION Vocabulary: Life events Grammar: WHEN Clauses Lab: Life events, WHEN clauses	Practice Life event vocabulary 5 WHEN clauses - personal
9/18 (R)	Grammar: Narrating and transitions Review of inflection, WHEN clauses Vocabulary: Countries, Social Justice Signing dates Presentation Lab #1 specifications Lab: WHEN clauses, transitions, Country vocab, Presentation Lab #1	Practice Country and SJ vocab Video homework as assigned Develop and practice Presentation Lab #1 10 historically important dates and events
9/23 (T)	Presentation Lab #1 (WHEN clauses) Feedback Vocab: Disrupted plans Presentation Lab #2 specifications	Video HW as assigned Study for Big Quiz Develop Presentation Lab #2
9/25 (R)	Quiz #5 (When clauses, vocab) Lab: Disrupted plans	Practice Presentation Lab #2
9/30 (T)	Presentation Lab #2 (Disrupted plans) Classifiers: intro, rules, types Review: DCLs, ICLs, SCLs CL types: ICLs Presentation Lab #3 guidelines	Review class notes Practice DCLs and ICLs Review CL packet Begin Presentation Lab #3
10/2 (R)	Quiz #6 (life events, country vocab, disrupted plans) Vocabulary: Food and drink Signing money Review numbers 1-100	Prepare Presentation Lab #3 Video homework as assigned
10/7(T)	Presentation Lab #3 (food preparation lab – ICLs) Food and conversation Vocab: Materials	Begin Presentation Lab #4 Integrate shapes & patterns into your presentation Read packet as assigned



10/9 (R)	Quiz #7 (CL types, CL identities, food & drink vocab, food prep) Classifiers and signer's perspective Signing shapes and patterns 3d shapes Pluralizing classifiers Lab: Presentation Lab #2, DCLs and materials	Prepare Presentation Lab #4 Video homework as assigned Vocabulary from
10/14 (T)	Presentation Lab #4 (object lab – DCLs) Pluralizing classifiers Physical description sequence	Gloss DCLs for 1 character in your scene Read CL packet assigned pages
10/16 (R)	Quiz #8 (Signer's perspective with 3D CLs) Mouth morphemes Presentation Lab #3 guidelines CL review Lab: Movie groups, color decisions, DCLs	Practice mouth morphemes Add mouth morphemes to your gloss Integrate mouth morphemes into your presentation Prepare Presentation Lab #5 Video homework as assigned
10/21 (T)	Review: Deaf Humor Visual Vernacular Personification in ASL Lab: Visual Vernacular, DCLs, mouth morphemes	Video homework as assigned Practice Presentation Lab #4
10/23 (R)	Quiz #9 (Deaf Humor) Lab: Presentation Lab #3, personification, VV	As assigned
10/28 (T)	Presentation Lab #5 (character descriptions – mouth morphemes & topics) Study guide for Exam #2 Eye gaze: general and specific (your presentation) Role shift: general and specific (your pres.) Review	Begin review for Exam #2 Study for quiz
10/30 (R)	Quiz #10 (mouth morphemes) Practice Exam #2 Presentation Lab #5 (room layout) discussed	Review for Interactive Finals Study for Exam #2 Review for Exam #2
11/2 (T)	INTERACTIVE SECTION FINALS (rotations) Questions regarding Exam #2	Review and study



		Finish all SN 16 video homework
11/4 (R)	EXAM #2 (Food and drink vocab, Life event vocab, Countries and SJ vocab, WHEN clauses, CL types, CL descriptions, CL identities, CL packet through mouth morphemes, physical description sequence, Deaf Humor, VV, ASL poetry)	Draw room layout diagram
11/11 (T)	Vocab: Items around the house Room layout diagram due Lab: In class room layout SCLs	Practice Presentation Lab #6 Video HW as assigned
11/13 (R)	Presentation Lab #6 (room layout lab) Lab: Presentation	Video HW as assigned
11/18 (T)	Quiz #11 (room layout) Presentation practice	Practice presentation
11/20 (R)	PRESENTATION FEEDBACK QUIZ Interactive Section Finals #3	KEEP PRACTICING YOUR PRESENTATION
11/25, 11/27	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING/FALL BREAK	KEEP PRACTICING
12/2, 12/4	FINALS: PRESENTATIONS	ENJOY YOUR BREAK!!!

Tentative, subject to change without prior notice