



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Summer 2024	Instructor Name:	Liisa Mendoza
Course Title & #:	American Sign Language 1 – AMSL 100	Email:	liisa.mendoza@imperial.edu
CRN #:	30109	Webpage (optional):	N/A
Classroom:	Via ZOOM	Office #:	N/A
Class Dates:	6/17 – 7/27/24	Office Hours:	
Class Days:	MTWR	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6120
Class Times:	12:30 – 4:10 pm via Zoom	Emergency Contact:	Email
Units:	4	Class Format:	Real time, synchronous, online

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 be teaching synchronously via Zoom. This class was listed in the catalog as real time, with time blocks given. **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 camera.

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.

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 Zoom class labs, no voice, following class rules)
Review sessions	50 (meeting with the tutor at least 10 times during the summer session) OR Deaf Awareness Project
Homework	180 (includes written and signed homework)
Exams	300
Quizzes	150
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 – Turn on your cameras when in the Zoom room. I need to see you to know if you are even there. If you are having camera tech difficulties, let me know via the Chat or email. If you have to turn off your camera, let me know why. No cell phones, unless I say to use them or you are using them to screen shot the notes. (And then you still need to write the notes down, or you'll never remember the info.)

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 Zoom 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 - on Zoom. 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
6/17 (M)	Syllabus, course expectations, ASL v English Signer’s perspective, shapes Introduction to fingerspelling Parameters	Buy text Read syllabus, note questions Practice fingerspelling
6/18 (T)	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
6/19 (W)	NO CLASS: JUNETEENTH	Practice Part B
6/20 (R)	NMMs, sentence types Deaf Intro – Part A Fingerspelling Numbers 1-10	Practice Deaf Intro Practice PH 1 vocab Read PH 2 Practice fingerspelling and numbers
6/24 (M)	Quiz #2 (fingerspelling, PH 1 vocab) PH 2 vocab Pick partner for Deaf Intro Lab: Deaf Intro	Practice PH 1 Practice PH 2 Practice Deaf Intro Read packet as assigned



	Numbers 11 - 20	Practice fingerspelling and numbers
6/25 (T)	ASL Grammar PH 1 & 2 review PH 3: Vocabulary Lab: Presentation #1 practice, PH 1, 2 & 3 Numbers 21 - 30	Gloss Practice Sentences Read PH 3 Practice PH 1 & 2 Practice Presentation #1 Practice numbers 1 - 30
6/26(W)	Quiz #3 (PH 1 & 2, NMMs) Practice Sentences due PH 3 Grammar: Directional verbs and noun-verb pairs Study guide for Exam #1 Practice Presentation #1	Practice PH 3 vocab Practice Presentation #1 Practice Presentation #1 Review PH 1-3 Practice PH 3A – 3C
6/27 (R)	Presentation #1 Quiz #4 (PH 1-3, ASL Grammar) Practice Exam #1 Review for Exam #1 PH 4: Physical Description sequence Supercharacter introductions	Study for Exam #1 Practice for Exam #1 Read PH 4 Take Exam #1 before class on Monday
7/1 (M)	EXAM #1 (PH 1-3, packet, ASL grammar, NMMs, fingerspelling, shapes, numbers 1- 30) Review: Physical description sequence PH 4 vocab Lecture: Connecticut school	Get Supercharacter visuals Read PH 4 Practice PH 4 vocab Pick paper topic
7/4 (M)	NO CLASS – INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY	See above
7/2 (T)	Supercharacter visuals due Quiz #5 (Outfits: classmates) Paper topic due Physical descriptions PH 4 vocab reviewed Presentation #2 discussed Glossing Supercharacters explained Numbers 31 - 66	Practice PH 4 vocab Gloss Supercharacters Practice numbers 1- 66
7/3(W)	Quiz #6 (Outfits & colors) Presentation #2 gloss explained Lecture: pronominalization PH 8 vocab PH 8 grammar: tense, use of FINISH Lab: Presentation #2, physical description, Supercharacters Numbers 67 - 100	Practice Supercharacters Gloss Presentation #2 Practice PH 8 vocabulary Read PH 6 Review notes Practice numbers 1- 100 Review notes for Connecticut school lecture
7/4 (R)	NO CLASS – INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY	See above
7/8 (M)	PH 8 wrap up Presentation #2 practice Select vocabulary for Presentation #2 PH 6 vocabulary	Presentation #2 practice Find 2 sources for your paper



	Who whats explained PH 6: Negation in ASL, modals Lecture: Connecticut School reviewed	
7/9 (T)	Extra credit opportunity: Supercharacter description Quiz #7 (Faces) Deaf awareness project 2 sources or 5 lab sessions due	Practice PH 6 vocab Presentation #2 gloss Practice Presentation #2 Practice PH 4, 6 & 8 Gloss 10 who whats Practice Supercharacters Review notes; note questions Work on Deaf awareness project
7/10 (W)	Quiz #8 (Supercharacters – Liisa picks) 10 who whats due Lab: Presentation #2, Supercharacters, physical description, PH 4, 6, 8 Face page distributed Study Guide for Exam #2	Practice Presentation #2 Practice who whats Review PH 4, 6 Read PH 5 Complete face page and PRACTICE it Gloss and practice 10 who whats
7/11 (R)	Presentation #2 Quiz #9 (Who whats – PH 4, 6, 8) Face page due Who whats PH 5 vocabulary PH 5: ASL Requests Noun-verb pairs and trios Lab #6: Deaf Culture interaction	Gloss and practice 5 ASL requests Review PH 4, 6, 8 Practice PH 5 vocab Review notes, note questions Work on Deaf awareness project, or keep attending review sessions
7/15 (M)	Quiz #10 (ASL Requests) 5 ASL requests due Lab: review for exam Practice Exam #2 Review for Exam #2 Grammar: Classifiers	Review notes Practice for exam Study for exam Work on Deaf awareness project, or keep attending review sessions
7/16 (T)	Interactive Section Finals PH 7 classifiers PH 7 vocabulary PH 7 grammar: number incorporation, quantifiers PH 10 classifiers EXAM #2 (PH 1-6, 8, pronominalization, noun-verb pairs, ASL requests, physical description, Supercharacters, Connecticut School, face page, fingerspelling, numbers 1-100)	Practice CL PH 7A – 7C Study for quiz Practice numbers 1-100 Read PH 10 Take Exam #2 Read PH 7 carefully Review notes on CL Work on Deaf awareness project, or keep attending review sessions
7/17(W)	Quiz #11 (CL) PH 10: vocabulary PH 10: FLS, reverse directional verbs, routines Lab	Practice PH 7 vocab Read PH 9 Practice PH 10B, 10C



7/18 (R)	CL review and clarification PH 9 vocabulary PH 9: signing clock time, signing age Lab #8: PH 9 & 10, begin review Study guide for Exam #3 Deaf Awareness Project or 10 review sessions due by Sunday, 7/21	Gloss and sign 10 when what whos Practice PH 10 vocab Practice PH 9A – 9D Practice numbers 1-100 Practice 1A – 10D Read PH 11
7/22 (M)	Quiz #12 (PH 10) PH 11: vocabulary, grammar PH 11: signing money Grocery shopping pattern PH 12: vocabulary, grammar Lab: PH 11 & 12, grocery shopping, signing money, etc. Big quiz practice Practice Exam #3	Study for Exam #3 Practice for Exam #3 Review for Exam #3 Review PH 11 & 12
7/23 (T)	Interactive Section Finals #2 EXAM #3 (PH 1-10, focus on 7-10, classifiers, numbers 1-100, FLS, routines, when what whos, Congress of Milan, etc.) Review grocery shopping list Review signing money	Practice PH 11A – C Read PH 12 Get grocery flyer Make list of 10 Practice PH 12 vocab Practice PH 12A – 12C Practice PH 11 vocab Review notes Practice grocery shopping lists
7/24 (W)	Grocery shopping list due PH 11 reviewed Signing money reviewed Grocery shopping list practice Interactive section finals: PH 11 & 12 FINAL QUIZ: PH 11 & 12 Preparation for finals	Prepare for final
7/25 (R)	FINALS – interactive conversations with instructor by appointment	Enjoy your 2 weeks off

*****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 3 Deaf events during this session: 1 via Zoom and 2 on ground (not at IVC).