



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Reyna Gutierrez
Course Title & #:	AMSL 100	Email:	reyna.gutierrez@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10441	Webpage (optional):	www.imperial.edu
Classroom:	#2722	Office #:	In person/Online/Zoom
Class Dates:	8/11/25-12/3/25	Office Hours:	In person/Online/Zoom
Class Days:	Monday & Wednesday	Office Phone #:	N/A
Class Times:	10:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.	Emergency Contact:	760-355-6337
Units:	4	Class Format/Modality:	Face-to-face (IVC campus)

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:

1. Differentiate between basic similar signs.
2. Recognize basic differences between simple ASL and English sentence structure.
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 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.



Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required: **"Learning American Sign Language. Levels I & II- Beginning & Intermediate". 2nd Edition.** Tom Humphries & Carol Padden. Boston, MA Pearson Education. ISBN: 9780205275533

Random House Webster's Pocket American Sign Language Dictionary - ISBN: 978-035722783

3 ring binder (1/2-1 inch), paper, pen/pencil

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

The instructor will generally be teaching with a voice-off approach. This will increase students receptive and expressive comprehension. Students will participate in a variety of course exercises designed to be able to respond and converse in ASL. New vocabulary will be introduced weekly and applied through a variety of assignments. Students will learn grammatical rules and structures as book units are completed in the required books. ASL assignments will be required to be done in class, outside of class, and in the Canvas platform. Detailed instructions will be given by the instructor to produce successful assignments. Students will converse in ASL with instructor, with classmates and in front of class. During lecture, students will be given specific exercises and instructions to focus on improving their signing skills. All presentations will be signed.

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

Category	Assignments	Points
Attendance	32 Instruction Days	100 points
Exams	2 Total Exams: -Midterm -Final	125 points 125 points
Homework	Written & Canvas Submission	280 points
Participation	Class Sessions Observations	50 points
Presentations	4 Total Presentations: Signed #1 – Self-Disclosure Signed #2 – My Faves & Pet-Peeves Signed #3 – Group Dialogues Oral #1 – Deaf Expositons	100 points 100 points 120 points 100 points
Quizzes	10 Unit Quizzes	250 points
Written Paper	Guest Speaker- Reflection Report	50 points

A- 1260-1400, B- 1120-1259, C- 980-1119, D- 840-979, F- 0-839 Points

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.

Updated 2/12/2024

Course Policies

- Maintain eye contact
- Ask instructor to repeat when you don't understand.
- Students who arrive late will give reason for arriving late using American Sign Language.
- Check email and Canvas correspondence from instructor before attending class. (Recommended: Regularly)
- No makeups on any assignments, performances, tests, exams unless arrangements have been made with the instructor.
- Before taking the Midterm or Final make sure to use the restroom and have something to write with. You will not be allowed to leave the classroom during finals/tests unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor.
- Please refrain from making any noises or distraction when students are signing their performances.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones, electronic devices, headsets, ear Bluetooth, and smart pens, must be turned off/put away. All electronic devices are not allowed during test, quizzes, and exams.

Note: Electronic device accommodation can be arranged with instructor and/or DSPS.

Other Course Information

Career possibilities in American Sign Language: Work-based learning (WBL) allows students to apply classroom content in professional settings while gaining real-world experiences. These opportunities will provide with a deeper, more engaging and relevant learning environment. This semester, I will be offering the following WBL activities in order to provide you with the opportunity to explore career options in American Sign Language.

WBL Activity	WBL Activity Description
Guest Speakers	Sign Language Interpreter-share experience becoming an interpreter at Imperial Valley College and Independent Contractor work. Deaf guest speaker- Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind teacher. Students will be meeting former AMSL 100 students via-zoom/video. Students will learn how former students use their ASL skills. Former Deaf IVC/Gallaudet University graduate-share experience of educational experience and work experience.
Interpreting from Voice to ASL and from ASL to Voice.	Students will experience watching the skills an interpreter uses to interpret from American Sign Language to Voice a from Voice to American Sign Language in a professional setting.
Career Exploration	Students will be given a list of ASL Careers/Professions to choose from. The student will seek out to interview a professional in that career and write about what they learned. Instructor will provide of agencies, non-profit organizations, and school institutions that they can reach out to. Students will create a list of questions to ask guest speakers/professionals/agencies

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.

Updated 2/12/2024

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Day	Lesson Plan (LP)	LP Points	Homework	HW Points
Mon. 8/11 Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greet and Meet in ASL Syllabus Lessons: What is ASL? & Signer vs. Viewer's Perspective 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read: Rules on Recording ASL Videos ASL Video: Introductions (due Wed. see Canvas) Written HW: Bring a list of 20 words for fingerspelling activity 	20 pts. 10 pts.
Wed. 8/13 Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity: Fingerspelling Lesson: ASL Grammar – TTDAD, T/C, 4 Basic Sentence Types Introduced 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written HW: Gloss 3 affirmative & 3 negation sentences (due Mon. 8/18/25 via Canvas, you must bring a printed copy to class for discussion) 	20 pts.
Mon. 8/18 Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity: Affirmative and Negation sentences discussion – NMMs & HW Lesson: Facial Expressions Textbook: Start Unit 1 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice your facial expressions in front of a camera or a mirror 	
Wed. 8/20 Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook: Finish Unit 1 Activity: Parameters of a Sign Lesson: Vocabulary List & Numbers 1-10 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study for Quiz #1 Written HW: Gloss 6 Wh-Questions & 4 Yes-No Questions (due Mon. 8/25/25 via Canvas, you must bring a printed copy to class for discussion) 	20 pts.
Mon. 8/25 Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #1 Activity: Wh-Q's & Y/N-Q's Textbook: Start Unit 2 	25 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canvas HW: Facial Expressions 	40 pts.
Wed. 8/27 Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook: Finish Unit 2 Activity: Facial Expressions Introduce Presentation 1: Self-Disclosure Lesson: Vocabulary List & Numbers 10-20 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study for Quiz #2 Gloss: Presentation 1 (due Wed. 9/3/25 via Canvas) Reading HW: Directional Verbs 	10 pts.
Mon.9/01	Holiday			
Wed. 9/03 Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #2 Activity: Directional Verbs Textbook: Start Unit 3 	25 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice signing presentation 1 	
Mon. 9/08 Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook: Finish Unit 3 Lesson: Vocabulary List & Numbers 21-30 Activity: Deaf Culture Lecture 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study for Quiz #3 Practice signing presentation 1 	
Wed. 9/10 Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #3 Activity: Introduction to Classifiers (Focus DCLs) Activity: Mouth Morphemes Textbook: Start Unit 4 	25 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual HW: Visualize an individual of your choice and write down all his/her physical traits. (due Mon. 9/15/25 via Canvas, you must bring a printed or written copy to class for discussion) 	10 pts.

Mon. 9/15 Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Finish Unit 4 • Lesson: Vocabulary List & Numbers 31-40 • Activity: Physical Desc Sequence 	20 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice signing presentation 1 • Study for Quiz #4 	
Wed. 9/17 Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation 1 	100 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for Quiz #4 	
Mon. 9/22 Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #4 • Textbook: Start and Finish Unit 5 • Lesson: Vocabulary List & Numbers 41-50 	25 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canvas HW: Noun-Verb Pairs • Study for Quiz #5 	20 pts.
Wed. 9/24 Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #5 • Textbook: Start Unit 6 	25 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASL Video: Modals 	20 pts.
Mon. 9/29 Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Finish Unit 6 • Introduce Presentation 2: My Favorites and Pet Peeves • Lesson: Vocabulary List & Numbers 51-60 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for Quiz 6 • Gloss: Presentation 2 (due Mon. 10/6/25 via Canvas) • Index Cards: Midterm Review 	30 pts.
Wed. 10/1 Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Index Card Review Stations 	20 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for Midterm • Finish Gloss: Presentation 2 (due Mon. 10/6/25 via Canvas) 	10 pts.
Mon. 10/6 Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Exam 	125 pts.		
Wed. 10/8 Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity: Introduce Deaf Expositions Project • Lesson: Classifiers (LCLs and ICLs) • Textbook: Start Unit 7 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASL Video: Number Incorporation • Practice Presentation 2 • Research Deaf Expositions Topic 	20 pts.
Mon. 10/13 Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Finish Unit 7 • Activity: DCLs, ICLs, and LCLs • Lesson: Vocabulary List & Numbers 61-70 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for Quiz #6 • Practice Presentation 2 • Research Deaf Expositions Topic 	
Wed. 10/15 Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #6 • Textbook: Start and Finish Unit 8 	25 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for Quiz #7 • Study Vocabulary List & Numbers 71-80 on your own in Canvas 	
Mon. 10/20 Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation 2: My Favorites and Pet Peeves 	100 pts.		
Wed. 10/22 Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #7 • Lesson: Residential Schools • Textbook: Start Unit 9 	25 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASL Video: Number Rules (Age/Time of Day) 	30 pts.
Mon. 10/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook: Finish Unit 9 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for Quiz #8 	

Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson: Vocabulary List & Numbers 81-90 Introduce Presentation 3: Group Dialogue 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working on Deaf Exposition presentations Finish Gloss: Presentation 3 (due Mon. 11/3/25 via Canvas) 	10 pts.
Wed. 10/29 Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #8 Textbook: Start and Finish Unit 10 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading HW: Fingerspelled Loan Signs and Semantic Classifiers Study Vocabulary List & Numbers 81-90 on your own in Canvas Study for Quiz #9 	
Mon. 11/3 Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaf Guest Speaker 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 page reflection paper on Guest Speaker (due Wed. 11/5/25) 	50 pts.
Wed. 11/5 Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz #9 Activity: FLS and SCLs Textbook: Start Unit 11 	25 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASL Video: Fingerspelled Loan Signs Continue working on Deaf Exposition presentations 	20 pts.
Mon. 11/10 Week 14	Holiday			
Wed. 11/12 Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook: Finish Unit 11 Lesson: Vocabulary List & Numbers 91-100 Activity: Mouth Morphemes and Classifiers (D,L,I,S-CLs) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study for Quiz #10 	
Mon. 11/17 Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook: Start and Finish Unit 12 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study Vocabulary List & Review Numbers 61-100 Finish and Rehearse Deaf Culture Expositions 	
Wed. 11/19 Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaf Culture Presentations 	100 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice Dialogue Presentations 	
Nov. 24-28	Thanksgiving Break- Campus closed			
Mon. 12/1 Week 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Dialogue Presentations 	120 pts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study for the Final Exam 	
Wed. 12/3 Week 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Exam 	125 pts.		

Subject to change without prior notice