

California State University, Northridge
Summer Academic Enrichment Program
Summer 2024

ASL

Instructor: Ms. Balaguer
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Course Overview:

This course emphasizes extensive communication in American Sign Language (ASL). Throughout our interactions, the objective is to maintain silence and focus on our eyes, honing both receptive (visual) and productive skills. "Introduction to American Sign Language" aims to give students a foundation for an ASL 1 course. If students are familiar with ASL, consider this a refresher to refine their existing skills. If students are new to ASL, this class will equip students for future ASL courses.

Course Description:

Embark on a dynamic exploration of American Sign Language (ASL) in this course. Achieve proficiency in initiating conversations through the ASL alphabet, mastering fingerspelling, and acquiring common greetings. Learn effective questioning techniques, including "Yes/No," "Wh-" inquiries, and time-related questions, complemented by crucial facial expressions. Enhance ASL communication skills through scripted and improvised dialogues, fostering a "voices off" environment. Delve into the experiences of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, comparing them with various minorities. Join us for a transformative journey where language and cultural understanding converge.

Course Objectives:

1. Goal: To be able to initiate conversation by studying the alphabet.

Objective: Learn how to fingerspell their name.

Objective: Know greetings and goodbyes.

2. Goal: To learn about others by asking personal questions.

Objective: Learn how to ask "Yes, No | "Wh-" questions | "Time/time of Day" and the Facial Expressions that are required to ask those.

Objective: Analyzing the grammar behind the two types of questions and understanding the benefits of having different formats.

Objective: Learn to ask or to describe "Colors" and "Health and Body"

3. Goal: To learn about possessive pronouns and family members;

Objective: To identify/describe the person

(*boy, girl; man, woman; she/her. he/him, they/them*)

4. Goal: To communicate in American Sign Language

Objective: Initiate improvised dialogue for students to participate in.

Objective: Keeping a “voices off” environment in order to emerge students into the world of American Sign Language.

5. Goal: To learn about a new minority and what it is like to be Deaf

Objective: Compare and contrast different minorities with people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Objective: Through videos, texts, experiences, and presentations; the many different ways to be Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Course Materials:

Students are required to arrive in class adequately prepared, equipped with a pen or pencil and a notebook. Alternatively, students have the option to utilize their personal electronic devices for note-taking as an alternative accommodation.

Textbooks:

1. *Signing Made Easy* by Rod R. Butterworth and Mickey Flodin
2. *Signing Illustrated* by Mickey Flodin
3. *Easy Guide to ASL* by Fall River Press (edited by Lora Heller)