

Course Syllabus



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1A: INTRODUCTION

Did you know that American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most commonly used language in North America? Learn introductory vocabulary and simple sentences so that you can start communicating right away. Importantly, explore Deaf culture – social beliefs, traditions, history, values, and communities influenced by deafness.

! General Note

Sign order should not be the focus of this course. While students should make an effort to put things into ASL sign order when appropriate, grading should not be based on this. Please also be aware that while you may learn particular signs one way, it's possible others may learn the same signs in a slightly different manner. As in any language, there are many variances between signs and signers, as well as regional and cultural differences. Signs may also be shortened or simplified for the ease of conversation.

Unit 1: The Basics

Have you ever watched a sign language interpreter at a public event and thought—“Wow, what a beautiful and expressive language!”? Yes, sign language is an amazing visual language that is almost like a dance, with fine finger shapes, facial expressions, and expressive body movements. But American Sign Language is the language of communication for many, with rules and grammar just like any other official language. Each of those movements has a specific meaning and is part of a unique and fascinating language. Get ready to embark on an exciting new journey into the world of American Sign Language so you, too, can communicate in this exquisite way!

- Define American Sign Language
- Correctly perform the 26 signs of the American Manual Alphabet
- Count to 10 and greet someone in ASL
- Politely get a Deaf person’s attention
- Trace the origins of sign language in the United States

UNIT 1 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 1 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 1 Lab	Homework
Unit 1 Activity	Homework
Unit 1 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 1 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 1 Quiz	Quiz

Unit 2: Let's Introduce Ourselves!

Well, hi there! Nice to meet you. Being able to introduce yourself and communicate with others upon meeting is a necessary, everyday skill. Of course, when unable to do this in your native language, it can present quite a challenge, and you may possibly even run the risk of appearing rude. Needless to say, learning how to introduce yourself and mind your manners in an ASL setting is definitely an important skill to have. But don’t worry—soon you’ll be able to graciously introduce and tell a little bit about yourself so you can feel confident and comfortable if ever at a Deaf event.

- Understand why many Deaf people prefer to be called Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Count to 20
- Introduce your family members
- Sign “please” and “thank you”
- Recognize how to appropriately interact at a Deaf event

UNIT 2 Assignments

Assignment	Type
Unit 2 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 2 Lab	Homework
Unit 2 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 2 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 2 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 2 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 2 Quiz	Quiz

American Sign Language 1a Midterm Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first two units in this course. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

MIDTERM Assignments

Assignment	Type
Midterm Exam	Exam
Midterm Discussion	Discussion

Unit 3: Express Yourself: Feelings, Colors, & Questions

What is in a sign? Well, there are five things that make up a sign in ASL, and you can break those down to better understand how to sign words and sentences. Some very useful sentences include those that are questions or answers; consider, for example, when you want to get to know a new person. What do they like? Dislike? Want? Don't want? All of this, as well as the elements that make up signs, are very important to basic conversation, so let's get started!

- Name the five elements of a sign in ASL
- Identify marked and unmarked (natural) handshapes
- Tell someone whether you are Deaf or hearing in ASL
- Sign your emotions
- Ask and answer yes/no and 'wh-' questions

UNIT 3 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 3 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 3 Lab	Homework
Unit 3 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 3 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 3 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 3 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 3 Quiz	Quiz

Unit 4: School's in Session

Did you know that the football huddle originated when players on a Deaf college team crowded together to hide their sign language from the opposition? Or, did you have any idea that Benedictine monks had an interesting place in Deaf history? Knowing such background information can help us put American Sign Language into context, allowing us to better understand more about Deaf culture. Schools are an important part of Deaf history, so let's learn to sign about everything that happens there! Plus, what does it take to be a member of the Deaf community? Together, we'll explore more

about how people identify with the community and all about the wide range of people you might meet there.

- Identify the two sides of the “methods debate” in Deaf education
- Describe how Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, played a very negative role in Deaf history
- Turn just about any sentence into a question
- Sign basic sentences about school
- Appreciate the wide variety of people who are part of the Deaf community

UNIT 4 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 4 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 4 Lab	Homework
Unit 4 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 4 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 4 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 4 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 4 Quiz	Quiz

American Sign Language 1a Final Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from all units in this course. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

FINAL Assignments	
Assignment	Type

Final Exam	Exam
Final Exam Discussion	Discussion

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Course Syllabus

What you will learn in this course



American Sign Language 1b: Learn to Sign

The predominant sign language of Deaf communities in the United States, American Sign Language, is complex and robust. Discover more of this language and its grammatical structures through expanding your vocabulary with acquiring hundreds of new signs. Additionally, explore interesting topics like Deaf education and Deaf arts and culture, and learn about careers where you can use your ASL skills.

General Note

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between signs and signers, as well as regional and cultural differences. Signs may also be shortened or simplified for the ease of conversation.

Unit 1: Who's Who?

Imagine trying to function and communicate in a hearing world all day, every day. This is the reality for many Deaf individuals in the workplace. While accommodations and adaptations have made things easier, working in the hearing world has its challenges. Together, we'll learn signs for various professions and terms frequently used on the job. We'll also dive further into signing numbers—did you know that some numbers in ASL rock? Understanding this concept will make your numbers crystal clear in Sign Language. Plus, we'll get a glimpse into Black Deaf history, which helped form a unique subculture and dialect of ASL.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Clearly sign “rocking” numbers like 78
- Explain the function of the “person ending”
- Converse in ASL about work and jobs
- Relate Black Deaf history to wider cultural events and trends
- Identify centers of Deaf culture in the United States

UNIT 1 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 1 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 1 Lab	Homework
Unit 1 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 1 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 1 Activity 3	Homework
Unit 1 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 1 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 1 Quiz	Quiz

Unit 2: Well, It's About Time

Do you ever wonder how Deaf students learn? How might it be different from how a hearing student is educated? Together, we'll take some time to learn about the options for Deaf education today. Of course, when school is over, it's time to celebrate! Knowing how to sign about time and days will help to make sure you don't miss out on the fun. We'll also learn how to indicate the past, present, and future in ASL—it is so efficient that you may wonder why we don't have something this simple in English!

What will you learn in this unit?

- Name the three laws that have dramatically changed Deaf education
- Count to 1,000 in ASL
- Schedule your holiday celebrations in ASL
- Recognize the importance of Deaf social events for Deaf people
- Practice respectful etiquette when you attend a Deaf event

UNIT 2 Assignments

Assignment	Type
Unit 2 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 2 Lab	Homework
Unit 2 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 2 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 2 Activity 3	Homework
Unit 2 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 2 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 2 Quiz	Quiz

American Sign Language 1b Midterm Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first two units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

MIDTERM Assignments

Assignment	Type
Midterm Exam	Exam
Midterm Discussion	Discussion

Unit 3: Taking the Stage By Storm!

What season is it? It's theater season! Did you know there has been a thriving and creative Deaf theater scene since the era of the Deaf clubs (and even before)? There are Deaf dancers and even Deaf singers (yes!) who have appeared on network television. And beyond the performing arts, there is a whole movement in Deaf visual arts that expresses political and personal perspectives of Deaf artists. So, what are we waiting for? Let's jump in and cover the creative arts as well as signs about seasons and weather.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Trace the evolution of Deaf performances from Deaf clubs to network television
- Sign ordinal numbers
- Describe the weather—whether sunny, windy, or snowing!
- Distinguish your hat from your shoes in ASL
- Name the two types of De'VIA art

UNIT 3 Assignments

Assignment	Type
Unit 3 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 3 Lab	Homework
Unit 3 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 3 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 3 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 3 Discussion 2	Discussion

Unit 3 Quiz

Quiz

Unit 4: Expanding Your Vocabulary

Cut out the background noise! Technology can help Deaf and Hard of Hearing people more efficiently function in the wider world—let's explore a few of the types. Then we will expand your vocabulary with sports, animals, and foods. With all this ASL vocabulary, maybe you'll want to choose a career where you can use your ASL skills—whether you want to be a sign language interpreter or just use your skills to help communication in another profession, there are so many options to put your ASL into action!

What will you learn in this unit?

- Understand how technology can assist the Deaf to communicate
- Communicate important numbers clearly in ASL
- Sign the most popular sports and animals
- Request food and drink in ASL
- Chart a path to becoming a professional sign language interpreter

UNIT 4 Assignments

Assignment	Type
Unit 4 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 4 Lab	Homework
Unit 4 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 4 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 4 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 4 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 4 Quiz	Quiz

American Sign Language 1b Final Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.

- Take a course exam based on material from all units in this course. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

FINAL Assignments

Assignment	Type
Final Exam	Exam
Final Exam Discussion	Discussion

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