

Course Syllabus

What you will learn in this course



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 2A: COMMUNICATING

It's time to move beyond introductory ASL signs and start forming more compelling signs for communication. Explore how expressions can enhance signs and lend dimension to conversations, while learning vocabulary for descriptions, directions, shopping, making purchases, and dealing with emergencies.

Unit 1: Describe It!

“See Spot run.” “See Spot run fast into the house to get his bone.” When building sentences in a language, you need many tools to make a beautiful structure. Just like Spot’s house is built with not just a hammer and nails, but also using things such as wood, paint, glass, and concrete, you’ll need a few extra tools and materials to build compelling sentences in American Sign Language. Here, we will start to gather those extra materials to make detailed sentences in sign language—you’ll be surprised at the cool ways you can add descriptions to other signs in ASL!

What will you learn in this unit?

- Use classifiers for people and objects in conversation
- Identify people by describing them accurately
- Point appropriately while chatting in ASL
- Sign familiar places in your neighborhood

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 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 1 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 1 Quiz	Quiz

Unit 2: Getting Around Town

Learning signs in ASL lays the foundation for your visual communication, but now you need to bring your signing into the next dimension with extra tools—you can think of it as 3D ASL! We will add dimension to our signing with mouthing morphemes, locatives, and comparing and contrasting. In addition, we will practice using classifiers. These tools will allow you to expand your repertoire to give directions—around the house, around the school, or even around the whole town. Plus, learn a bit about how babies learn sign language and how this might give you clues to how you are learning ASL!

What will you learn in this unit?

- Explain how learning ASL as a baby benefits Deaf children later on
- Use basic locatives to describe spatial relationships
- Give directions in ASL
- Use mouth morphemes to indicate sizes
- Compare and contrast pairs of objects, concepts, or creatures

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

Unit 3: Emergency Situations

Life is full of unexpected events, some of them, unfortunately, are medical emergencies. Giving and understanding directions is obviously key to responding in an emergency, but it is also a necessary part of navigating everyday life. For example, if you visit a Deaf campus or event, you'll also likely need these signs to find your way around. In addition to tackling some of these crucial signs, we will also learn about how ASL interacts with spoken language (imagine the potential challenges this creates in times of actual emergencies!) and how living languages evolve all the time.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Explain the properties of a living language
- Harmonize your sentences with agreement verbs
- Give and understand directions – even in an emergency
- Follow ASL gloss to help you learn more vocabulary and sign order

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

American Sign Language 2a Midterm Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first three 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 4: Fun Activities

Calling all introverts and extroverts! Do you like to hang around the house? Or are you happier running around town for fun? Here, we will get to learn the signs for our favorite activities and then practice some of the grammar and body language we have been learning about to give more meaning to our signing. From locatives to agreement verbs to eyebrow raises, there are so many factors that play a role in ASL. Plus, we'll take a peek into the lives of hearing people who are born to Deaf parents, a famous Deaf musician, and the cultural differences that make communicating in ASL so different from English.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Explain some of the cultural confusion experienced by CODAs
- Describe your preferences in detail, from WOW to BORING
- Compare and contrast with ease
- Raise and lower your eyebrows at the right times in ASL

- Understand the characteristics of high context and low context cultures

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

Unit 5: Everyday Activities

Everyday living doesn't have to be boring anymore. You can use your daily activities to practice your sign language! Walk the dog, buy some groceries, brush your teeth. All while "talking" to yourself in ASL. People might think you are a bit crazy, but that's okay—tell them you are learning ASL, teach them a sign or two, and they will be intrigued. Along with tackling various activity related signs, we'll also delve into the different types and styles of signing that you can find in the United States, and all the advances in technology that have allowed Deaf people to express themselves and communicate more easily over distances.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Distinguish between regional variations of ASL and unrelated sign languages used in the United States
- Describe your daily routine in ASL
- Shop for bargains and discuss them in ASL
- Use the sign FINISH as a time sign or as a conjunction
- Trace the history of communications and broadcast technology for use by the Deaf

UNIT 5 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 5 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 5 Lab	Homework
Unit 5 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 5 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 5 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 5 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 5 Quiz	Quiz

American Sign Language 2a 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

Course Syllabus

What you will learn in this course



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 2B: ADVANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Ready to dive deeper into learning about the Deaf community, culture, and language? Learn about sequencing, transitions, role-shifts, and future tenses. Discover how to tell a story and ask questions, benefiting with greater exposure to deaf culture. Speed, conversations, signing skills, and cultural awareness are characteristics of this course.

Unit 1: Making Plans

Deaf people used to be called “deaf and dumb,” but the Deaf President Now protests held by the student body at Gallaudet University in 1988 proved that not only could Deaf students organize but also that they were articulate leaders who wanted to see Deaf people in positions of power. Together, we’ll trace this important event in Deaf history, and since such events don’t simply happen, but

rather require a great deal of advance planning, we’ll also work on making plans in ASL by learning how to create lists, sequences, and rankings with the correct NMMs. Finally, we’ll delve into the process of researching Deaf topics while making sure to include Deaf perspectives from original sources—knowledge every ASL student should have!

What will you learn in this unit?

- Describe how the Deaf President Now movement developed
- Relate how the first deaf president of Gallaudet University came to power
- Sign lists and sequences properly when making plans
- Practice NMMs with past and future tense questions
- Research Deaf culture using appropriate Deaf sources

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 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 1 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 1 Quiz	Quiz

Unit 2: What’s New?

S’up? Did you hear the news? How about see the news? Getting the news can be difficult if you are deaf, but new technologies have allowed for more captioning and more ASL video news sources to bring important stories to the Deaf community. Together we will learn how to tell a good story in ASL, whether true or fictional, and get some practice using ASL literature techniques to captivate your audience with your signed stories.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Appreciate a classic ASL joke and re-tell it yourself

- Find and appreciate news sources accessible to the deaf
- Understand role-shifting in ASL literature
- Practice techniques to tell a cohesive and engaging story in ASL
- Dissect the elements of an ASL story

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

Unit 3: Just A Story

Aw, that’s just a story! But it might be a true story, even if it looks like it could be unbelievable. Isn’t that the fun of telling stories? They can be funny, unusual, crazy, and still be true at the same time. We’ll dig in to some funny stories, both fictional and true, while we learn more techniques for good storytelling and grammar. Plus, we’ll learn some cool ASL expressions, so get ready—you’re not going to want to miss the boat!

What will you learn in this unit?

- Break down the parts of a classic ASL story
- Recognize some common ASL idioms or slang expressions
- Correct yourself properly if you make a mistake in signing
- Use sign order to emphasize what you are talking about
- Decipher the meaning in personal ASL stories
- Recognize cognates and false cognates

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

American Sign Language 2b Midterm Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first three 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 4: Poetry in Motion

“Roses are red, violets are blue...” So much of the beauty of ASL literature comes from the visual splendor of the language, but did you know that you can rhyme in ASL? The traditions and forms of ASL literature are unique among literary arts in that they don’t have a written representation that can do them justice—you need to see the poems and stories performed to visualize and appreciate them. Playing with the language visually can be just as complex—or even more so—than written English. With unique practices of sequencing handshapes and varying signs, this poetry in motion must also, of course, be effectively communicated to an audience. Together, we’ll jump into ASL

literature, discover how to apply the appropriate rules to create our own stories and poems, and learn about two prominent ASL poets.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Recognize ASL rhymes
- Identify many forms of ASL literature
- Apply the rules for ASL stories with handshape constraints
- Create your own ABC, number, or word stories in ASL
- Define the idea of Deafhood

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

Unit 5: Get Outta Town!

Think of your dream vacation. Can you visualize it on a map? Mapping and indexing space are intrinsic parts of American Sign Language, but did you know that Deaf geography is contributing important insights to the wider field of geography? Deaf geography charts the cultural use of space, looking at how hearing and Deaf culture come into contact with each other in the physical world. Deaf space is also political, and we will talk about how important it is to Deaf culture. For more culture mixing, travel the world with ASL and learn how to describe your journey. Finally, we will quickly review some important grammar to take your signing to the next level of fluency, inviting you to become even more articulate in ASL.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Discuss the concerns of Deaf geography and Deaf space
- Design space with architectural features that are ideal for communicating in ASL
- Apply the concepts of contact zones and diaspora to the Deaf community
- Formulate a plan for traveling and report on it in ASL

UNIT 5 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 5 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 5 Lab	Homework
Unit 5 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 5 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 5 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 5 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 5 Quiz	Quiz

American Sign Language 2b 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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