



Middle Sign Language

Course Summary:

In this course, the student will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of American Sign Language. The student will explore vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills using basic signing and fingerspelling techniques, and will begin to learn about Deaf culture and the Deaf community. A webcam and recording device are required for this course.

Course Outline

1. Intro

1. History/Culture

- Compare Deaf culture to your own culture
- Define Deaf culture
- Define Deaf community
- Identify key cultural norms in the Deaf community
- Identify unique characteristics of the Deaf culture

2. About ASL

- Define ASL
- Identify elements of signed language
- Track dates and events in the introduction of sign language education to America
- Name key contributors to deaf education in America

3. Dialogue

- Describe conventions used to transcribe ASL
- Use transcription conventions to translate written text into ASL sentences

4. ABCs

- Identify elements of signed language
- Name the four parameters of signed language
- Sign the alphabet

5. Fingerspelling

- Fingerspell 3, 4, and 5 letter words
- Recognize fingerspelled words
- Fingerspell proper nouns

6. Greetings

- Use ASL to greet others and introduce yourself
- Follow the cultural rules associated with greetings, name signs, and good-byes
- Use both formal and informal greetings

7. Etiquette

- Define etiquette
- Describe social rules and behaviors observed during interaction in the Deaf community
- Identify key vocabulary

8. Review
9. Unit Test

- Compare Deaf culture to your own
- Use both formal and informal greetings

2. Numbers

1. Numbers 1–1,000
 - Sign numbers 0–1,000
 - Explain the unique number patterns for numbers 1–10, 11–15, 16–19, 20, 21–99, 100–900, and 1,000
2. Counting and Money
 - Demonstrate the signs for dollar, cents, and how much
 - Recognize the signs for numbers between 0 and 100
 - Demonstrate the signs for numbers between 0 and 100
3. Math, Weights, and Measures
 - Demonstrate signs for weights, measures, and simple math functions
4. Review
5. Unit Test

3. Time

1. The Clock
 - Be able to identify the signs relating to the telling of time
 - Be able to demonstrate the signs relating to the telling of time
 - Be able to describe various times that events happen
2. Days and Months
 - Recognize signs for days of the week and months of the year
 - Demonstrate signs for days of the week and months of the year
 - Construct simple sentences using days and months
3. Seasons and Holidays
 - Recognize and be able to accurately sign the four seasons of the year
 - Recognize and be able to accurately sign various holidays
4. Review
5. Unit Test

4. Nouns

1. Identifying and Indexing
 - Demonstrate signs for pronouns
 - Demonstrate indexing
2. People
 - Demonstrate signs for family members
 - Recognize signs for family members
3. Agent
 - Be able to demonstrate signs of agent
 - Use agent correctly with other signs to show jobs or occupations that people may have
4. Dialogue
 - Students will learn how to use punctuation correctly in ASL
 - Students will incorporate suffixes into signed dialogue
5. Places and Things
 - Demonstrate signs for the names of places and things
6. Review
7. Unit Test

5. Descriptions

1. Comparative Adjectives

- Learn the ASL method for using comparative adjectives
- Make comparisons using correct ASL signs
- 2. DCL Classifiers - Size and Shape Specifiers
 - Identify what a classifier is and what function it serves in ASL
 - Use classifiers correctly in signed conversation
- 3. Possession
 - Demonstrate the ASL handshape to indicate possession
 - Be able to accurately sign the various personal pronouns to show possession
- 4. Colors
 - Using ASL, correctly make the signs for various colors
 - Using the ASL signs for colors, as well as previously learned signs, sign descriptive sentences
- 5. Location
 - Demonstrate how to accurately sign various locations using ASL
 - Use the signs for different locations in descriptive sentences
 - Sign major cities shown on a map
- 6. Dialogue
 - Use correct nonmanual markers in place of state of being verbs
 - Explain how nonmanual markers can change the meaning of a sentence
- 7. Review
- 8. Unit Test