

An Introductory Course in American Sign Language and Deaf Culture

Instructor: Mary Phillips

Mondays, 1:45-3:30PM

American Sign Language is the third most common language used by adults in the United States. This class will introduce the fundamentals of ASL as well as familiarize you with cultural issues which accompany its use. Manual dexterity is not required. Curiosity and willingness are all you need to take the first steps toward the appropriate use of this fully-developed and naturally-occurring language.

Instructor Mary Phillips is a retired certified sign language interpreter who hosted a bilingual talk show about deaf resources in Southern Nevada. She employed, trained, and coordinated sign language interpreters in the Las Vegas Valley for many years in a variety of educational, entertainment, government, employment, and conference settings.

Week 1, September 16, 2019

Language: The importance and difficulty of fingerspelling; Conceptual language

Culture: Language, Culture, and Community

Vocabulary: Alphabet, Numbers 1-10

Week 2, September 23, 2019

Language: The five parameters of sign language; Pronoun point

Culture: The importance of native signers to the study of ASL

Vocabulary List, Numbers 10-25

Week 3, September 30, 2019

Language: Is sign language universal?; Possessive hand

Culture: Endogamy and Deaf Culture

Vocabulary List, Number 25-100

Week 4, October 7, 2019

Language: Self hand; Agent suffix

Culture: The Continuum—Hearing, Hard-of-Hearing, Deaf

Vocabulary List, Alphabet, Numbers

Week 5, October 14, 2019

Language: Noun/Verb Pairs

Culture: Cochlear implants

Vocabulary List

Week 6, October 21, 2019

Language: Time

Culture: ADA; The difference between signing and interpreting

Vocabulary List

Week 7, October 28, 2019

Language: Sentence structure

Culture: But which way is the RIGHT way to sign it?

Vocabulary List

Week 8, November 4, 2019

Language: Questions

Culture: Deaf President Now

Vocabulary List

VETERANS DAY, NO CLASS NOVEMBER 11, 2019

Week 9, November 18, 2019

Language: Directionality

Culture: Dialects and idioms; Cultural, legal, and ethical caveats