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