



# ASL 001: AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1

**Proposer:**

Name:	Email:
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**Effective Term:**

Fall 2026

**Does this course use a CA Common Course Number**

No

**Credit Status:**

Credit - Degree Applicable

**Subject:**

ASL - American Sign Language

**Course Number:**

001

**Discipline:**

And/Or	( Discipline )
	Sign Language, American

**Catalog Title**

American Sign Language 1

**COS Course Description**

This course is a study of fundamentals of American Sign Language. Students will learn the basics of visual/gestural communication and grammatical structures with emphasis on receptive and expressive skills, including intensive practice, finger spelling, individual evaluation, and basic information about Deaf culture.

**Method of Instruction:**

Distance Education  
Lecture and/or Discussion

**Course Units/Hours:**
**Course Units Minimum:**

4

**Lecture Hours Minimum (week)**

4

**Lab Hours Minimum (week)**

0

**Activity Hours Minimum (week)**

0

**Total Contact Hours Minimum (semester)**

70

**Total Outside Hours Minimum (semester)**

140

**Total Student Learning Minimum Hours (semester)**

210

**Repeatability:**

No

**Open Entry/Exit:**

No

**Field Trips:**

Not Required

**Grade Mode:**

Standard Letter

**TOP Code:**

085000 - Sign Language

**SAM Code:**

E - Non-Occupational

**Course Content****COS Methods of Evaluation:**

Essay quizzes or exams

Problem solving assignments or activities

Project

Short answer quizzes or exams

Skill demonstrations

**COS Course Topics:**

COS Course Topics	
1	Expressive and receptive skills
2	General conversation topics (where one lives, family details, activities, giving directions, descriptions, making requests, discussing occupations and routines)
3	Role of ASL in social, political, economic and language usage differences
4	Finger-spelling
5	Historical perspective of ASL and deaf community
6	Basic classifiers
7	Sentence structures
8	Basic fundamental grammatical structures
9	Alphabets and numbers
10	Basic vocabulary
11	Deaf culture
12	Telling stories

**COS Course Objectives:**

COS Course Objectives	
1	respond to simple signing questions and give simple answers.
2	use a basic vocabulary of at least 300 signs.
3	execute and read fingerspelling.
4	communicate with others.
5	sign basic vocabulary, phrases, and simple sentences using accurate syntax.
6	practice shifting roles.

**Course Outcomes:**

Course Outcomes	
1	Conversation: Given the basic structures of ASL and Deaf culture, students will be able to engage in spontaneous conversation using accurate expressive and receptive skills at the beginning level and be able to ask and answer questions using a basic vocabulary of 300 signs and correct grammatical structure.
2	Fingerspelling: Given the task to communicate with a person who is deaf, students will be able to execute, read, and understand fingerspelling and use it as a necessary part of a larger conversation in ASL at the beginning level.
3	Deaf Culture: Given a situation in which knowledge of the Deaf community is necessary to communicate, students will be able to identify and give examples of Deaf cultural attributes beyond stereotypes and articulate basic fundamental values that will facilitate effective environments for interaction. Students will demonstrate their basic understanding through a report or project identifying salient aspects of the Deaf community and the impacts of living in a multilingual culture, using examples of their experiences with Deaf people.

**Assignments:**

Assignment Type:	Details
Other	Learning the basics of ASL by using receptive and expressive conversational skills.
Writing	You will be given a Deaf for the Day assignment. Students will have to be "Deaf for the Day" and "live like a Deaf person" which is no talking on the phone; turn volume down on the TV and depend on closed captioning; and no talking and only use gesture or write down on paper to communicate. After students do their "Deaf for the Day", then they are to write a one page summary of their experiences.
Writing	Five Canvas Discussion Board Posts will be given throughout the semester. Canvas Discussion Board Posts will be under "Discussion Board" in Canvas and will be related on different topics about ASL and the Deaf community.
Homework	Students will be required to watch a movie "Through Deaf Eyes" on YouTube for a movie assignment. The link is <a href="https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-mozilla-001&amp;hsimp=yhs-001&amp;hspart=mozilla&amp;p=through+deaf+eyes+youtube#id=1&amp;vid=4958c1daa0828e297ed00e69ecb94d27&amp;action=click">https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-mozilla-001&amp;hsimp=yhs-001&amp;hspart=mozilla&amp;p=through+deaf+eyes+youtube#id=1&amp;vid=4958c1daa0828e297ed00e69ecb94d27&amp;action=click</a> Students then will need to answer questions on the questionnaire related to the movie.
Reading	Students will read about deaf culture for perceptive understanding. For example, students will read Lesson 2:11 from Signing Naturally, "Culture: Negotiating a Signing Environment."

**Representative Texts, Manuals, and/or OER that is equivalent, Other Support Materials:**

Texts used by individual institutions and even individual sections will vary. The list of representative texts must include at least one text with a publication date within five (5) years of the course outline approval date.

**COS Textbooks or other support materials**

Resource Type:	Details
Books	Signing Naturally, Units 1-6 Cheri Smith/Ella Mae Lentz/Ken Mikos Dawn Sign Press 2008 978-1-58121-210

**Transferable to CSU**

Yes - Approved

**Transferable to UC**

Yes - Approved

**Cal-GETC General Education**

Transferable to UC  
IGETC 6: Language not English

**COS General Education**

COS GE Area 3: Arts & Humanities  
COS GE C: Humanities



**Other Degree Attributes**

Degree Applicable  
Not a Basic Skills Course

**Distance Learning Addendum**

COS DLA - ASL 001.pdf

**Banner Title:**

American Sign Language 1

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:**

09/03/2025

**Academic Senate Approval Date:**

09/10/2025

**District Governing Board Approval Date:**

11/10/2025

**Course Control Number:**

CCC000240369

Equity Review

Select elements of the COR that were reviewed for equity. Must select at least one:

Other