



American Sign Language I

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Prerequisites:

- This course is open to 9th-12th grade students.



Course Description:

This course is an introduction to American Sign Language (ASL). Topics include: basic vocabulary, grammar, history, fingerspelling, numbers, terminology, and Deaf culture.

The curriculum used for this course is a university curriculum. Students should be able to easily transition into a college ASL course or possibly test out of the class and receive college credit after taking this course, as well as the ASL II course that follows, if the proper effort is put forth.



Commitment:

- This course meets on Tuesdays, with the opportunity to take the practice class on Thursday as well. You will get to choose if the class is one day a week or two days a week. The Tuesday class must be taken, but the Thursday class is optional. (See the Beginner ASL Practice class description for more information.)
- 2-3 hours per week of homework can be expected. Homework typically consists of studying the concepts/signs learned in class that week, as well as reviewing the previous week's signs. They will also have grammar and deaf culture topics to study.
- Students will write a paper on a deaf culture/ASL topic for an end of the year assignment.
- There will be quarterly in-class ASL presentations that the students will do to demonstrate their ASL knowledge.
- As ASL is a visual language, with no written component, there is very little homework to be turned in each week. Instead, grades will come largely from the weekly quizzes/tests, in-class participation, presentations, and a paper.
- There may also be a book to read or a movie to watch based on a deaf topic or with deaf characters.



A typical class will look like...

- Most weeks, the Tuesday class will begin with a quiz or test on the material from the previous weeks, with a larger unit test every 5 lessons. During the Thursday class, we will practice our conversation skills, play games, and discuss deaf movies and books.
- This is an interactive class. The only way for it to be successful is for students to have eyes on whoever is signing at all times. I will give enough time between demonstrations for students to take notes if they need to. After we have gone over all the new signs for the week, we will take time to practice them as a class and/or with partners.
- At least half of the class time will be "voices off" (no talking) to immerse us all in the language



Books and Supplies

Access to the internet to access lifeprint.com, which is a free site.



The following supplies: paper, pencils, and a small binder to keep all ASL papers