

**West Los Angeles College**  
**Fall 2013**  
**ASL 002: Intermediate American Sign Language**  
**Instructor: Andy Lim, M.A.**

*Syllabus is open to change at instructor's discretion*

**West Los Angeles College Mission Statement**

The mission of West Los Angeles College is to serve the students and the community by providing quality instructional and support services including programs, facilities, and open access for all who can benefit from its instruction.

**Lecture/Lab Meeting Days:** Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Lecture/Lab Times:** 6:45 PM to 8:50 PM

**Lecture/Lab Meeting Room:** MSA 011

**Instructor Contact Information**

Office Hours: By Appointments

E-Mail: [ABL25@hotmail.com](mailto:ABL25@hotmail.com)

(Type **ASL 002** in Subject heading for E-mail)

**Required Textbook**

*Learning American Sign Language, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* by Tom Humphries and Carol Padden.  
Pearson Education, Boston 2004. ISBN: 0-205-27553-2

**Course Description**

This course is a continuation of the study of elementary American Sign Language(ASL) vocabulary and grammar. Increased development of inflectional and non-manual behavior patterns are presented together with the incorporation of selected aspects of Deaf culture and community within receptive and expressive conversations.

**Course Prerequisites**

ASL 001 with a minimum grade of C or equivalent

**Course Objectives**

At the intermediate level students will (*at least one of the following*):

1. Formulate and generate American Sign Language interactive activities.
2. Produce an ASL short story.
3. Compare and contrast ASL grammatical features.
4. Demonstrate simple sentences and questions in ASL.
5. Discuss American Sign Language cultural information, evolution, and assimilation of American Sign Language.
6. Demonstrate appropriate sign vocabulary and grammatical structure.
7. Prepare and utilize ASL in dialogues.
8. Explore the major social factors of the deaf community and the impact on the advancement of deaf individuals in the United States.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of these courses:

- A. **Communication:** Effectively communicate thought in a clear, well-organized manner to persuade, inform, and convey ideas in academic words, family, and community settings.
- B. **Civic responsibility:** Apply the principles of civility to situations in the contexts of work, family, community, and the global world.
- C. Demonstrate comprehension and communicative competence in ASL (American Sign Language) related to oneself, family, academic, and real-world surroundings.
- D. Use and understand appropriate phonology, facial grammar, sign vocabulary, classifiers, and fingerspelling for expressive and comprehensive skills.

## Assessment Activities

The following activities will be used to assess students' learning:

1. Class participation: group work and presentations
2. Fingerspelling quizzes (FQ)
3. Homework
4. Tests and final exam
5. Topical report

## Evaluative Criteria

1. ASL sentence structures
2. Classifiers and facial grammar
3. Sign vocabulary
4. Words based on fingerspelling
5. Quality information in topical report

## Approach

The curriculum parallels what we know about language development and second language learning. We focus on introducing language in context and reinforcing what is learned by engaging you into various interactive activities. A conversational curriculum requires you to be an active learner. You need to come prepared to sign with me and other classmates. Our classes are conducted in American Sign Language (ASL) from the very first day. You are immersed in the language for five hours a week to maximize your language learning. The instructor will use gestures, signs, and drawings and act out situations to get the point across and your job is to keep trying. This may sound daunting at first, but trust me, it works!

## No-talking Policy

We insist on maintaining a signing environment at all times in the classroom for two reasons. First, it is considered rude and insulting to talk in front of a Deaf person and not make the information passing between you and the other person accessible. Since a good number of your instructors will be Deaf and your goal is to get to know Deaf people in the community, it is imperative that you develop the habit of signing when Deaf people are present.

Secondly, this is an immersion class, which means only the target language is used. Using only ASL helps you to develop both your comprehension skills and your expressive skills quickly and effectively. Talking disrupts this process and delays your language development.

If a fellow student asks you for help, feel free to help by using signs you have learned or by writing back and forth. In this way, I can see what is being said and can join in to help, if needed be.

**All cell phones, pagers, laptops, or other electronic devices must be turned off during class.**

### Grading

	Points
Participation	10
Insight on Deafness Report	10
Fingerspelling Quizzes, FQ (40)	5
Final Exam	30
Test 1 (Units 13 - 16)	15
Test 2 (Units 17 - 20)	15
Test 3 (Units 21 - 24)	15
Total:	100

### Exams

No make-up opportunities for fingerspelling quizzes except for one-time missed test in the event of extreme emergencies, such as death in the family or critical illness, with verified documentation.

To make up for the missed test, a student must arrange with the instructor in advance. No exceptions.

Final exam on sign vocabularies is comprehensive.

### Homework

You will have homework after every class, anywhere from 1 to 2 hours of work. It is important that you do the homework because the next class builds on the material covered.

### Insight on Deafness Report Due by December 12, 2013

Write 2 pages report on your perspective on deafness. Are there any differences on your views of deaf people generally before and after you entered into this course? What are the differences? Do you feel that you are well justified to communicate with deaf people? What will you do with your signing skills in the future? Free feel to add any comments.

### Participation

The goal for students is to become an active signer. You will learn how to refine your signing skills as well as expressive and receptive communication skills. Your facial expressions will eventually become more natural. Your body language will be better utilized necessary to communicate in ASL. By just sitting down and observing will not enhance your signing skills. I will be around to communicate with you as well as watching your practice in signing. Lack of participation will affect your grade.

### Important Information

As with learning any new language, you may often feel frustrated. Though it may be not comfortable, some frustration is indicative of your dedication and motivation to learn. But don't let

your frustration get the best of you (don't give up the ship). Learning pace varies from one to another as you grow within the "deaf culture".

Anytime you have a question regarding to sign language, as aspect of Deaf Community or deaf culture, please feel free to bring it up in class. No question is unimportant.

To view signs and/or fingerspelling through video via Internet, go to:

1. ASL Pro – Main Dictionary (excellent viewing)
2. ASL Browser
3. Commtechlab.msu.edu
4. Lifeprint.com
5. ASL.ms
6. www.start-american-sign-language.com

**Caution:** Because of regional variation, signed demonstrations may be slightly different although they may be similar in handshapes, movements, locations, and/or palm orientations. Refer to your textbook for cross-examination.

### **Cheating**

If I caught you looking at another student's test while taking your test, then I do not want your test back and you will receive an "F" grade on your test.

I do not allow any forms of cheating, including mouth movements, manual movements, or eye-head movements.

### **Attention**

No food allowed in classroom.

### **Attendance and Absences**

Participation in class activities is crucial to your success in this class. The class forms a small community and your effort or lack of impacts the success of the group. Please make every effort to come to every class with homework done and ready to learn and participate.

If you **miss 4 classes**, you will be dropped from class in accordance with college attendance policies. If you know you will be absent from class, please make arrangements for a classmate to take notes and collect handouts for you.

### **Children in Classrooms**

Children are not permitted in classrooms while class is in session. Attendance in class is limited to officially enrolled students and authorized visitors or guests. In addition, students must not allow children to be left unsupervised or unattended anywhere on campus.

### **Special Accommodations**

Any student who has a disability and has special needs is to alert me of this so that special accommodations can be made.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Students who choose to perform dishonestly in class during the exams will receive a zero credit and will face a disciplinary action.

**Disclaimer Statement**

Students will be notified ahead of time when and if any changes are made to course requirements, schedule, or policies.

**Important Note:** Syllabus is open to change at the Professor's discretion.

**Semester Schedule**

1	Aug 27	Tue	Roster, Orientation		
2	Aug 29	Thu	Units 13 – 16		
3	Sept 3	Tue	Units 13 – 16		
4	Sept 5	Thu	Units 13 – 16		
5	Sept 10	Tue	Units 13 – 16	FQ 1, 2	
6	Sept 12	Thu	Units 13 – 16	FQ 3, 4	
7	Sept 17	Tue	Units 13 – 16	FQ 5, 6	
8	Sept 19	Thu	Units 13 – 16	FQ 7, 8	
9	Sept 24	Tue	Units 13 – 16	FQ 9, 10	
10	Sept 26	Thu			Test 1
11	Oct 1	Tue	Units 17 – 20	FQ 11, 12	
12	Oct 3	Thu	Units 17 – 20	FQ 13, 14	
13	Oct 8	Tue	Units 17 – 20	FQ 15, 16	
14	Oct 10	Thu	Units 17 – 20	FQ 17, 18	
15	Oct 15	Tue	Units 17 – 20	FQ 19, 20	
16	Oct 17	Thu	Units 17 – 20	FQ 21, 22	
17	Oct 22	Tue	Units 17 – 20	FQ 23, 24	
18	Oct 24	Thu	Units 17 – 20	FQ 25, 26	
19	Oct 29	Tue			Test 2
20	Oct 31	Thu	Units 21 – 24	FQ 27, 28	
21	Nov 5	Tue	Units 21 – 24	FQ 29, 30	
22	Nov 7	Thu	Units 21 – 24	FQ 31, 32	
23	Nov 12	Tue	Units 21 – 24		
24	Nov 14	Thu	Units 21 – 24	FQ 33, 34	
25	Nov 19	Tue	Units 21 – 24	FQ 35, 36	
26	Nov 21	Thu	Units 21 – 24	FQ 37, 38	
27	Nov 26	Tue	Units 21 – 24	FQ 39, 40	
28	Nov 28	Thu	<b>Thanksgiving Day Holiday – Campus Closed</b>		
29	Dec 3	Tue			Test 3
30	Dec 5	Thu			<b>Unit Review: 13 – 18</b>
31	Dec 10	Tue			<b>Unit Review: 19 – 24</b>
32	Dec 12	Thu	<b>Final Exam; Insight On Deafness Report Due</b>		

**Deadline to withdraw class: Friday, November 15, 2013**