

ASL 1552 - Intermediate American Sign Language 1

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41217,

Credit hours: 2

Instructor

Julia Finocchi

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Ms. Finocchi

Instructor Professional Qualifications: B. Ed, Educational Interpreting (ASL/ENG Interpreting), Kent State University, 2015; Master of Social Work, University of Western Pennsylvania, 2027

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Course Description

1552. Intermediate American Sign Language 1. Continuation of ASL 1551 with further development of vocabulary, syntax and grammatical non-manual signals and additional study of the history and culture of the Deaf Community. Prereq.: ASL 1551. 2 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Introduction To American Deaf Culture	Thomas K. Holcomb	978-0-19-977754-9

Chapters will be assigned for discussion.

[Introduction_to_American_Deaf_Culture.pdf](#)

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Signing Naturally Units 7-9

Day	Date	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Mon	8/24	Review of class expectations 7.1 – Identifying a Person	Assignment 7.1: Identify the Person. Students watch 3 signed descriptions of people and create a written profile for each, identifying the descriptive sequence used.
Wed	8/26	7.1 – Relaying a Message	Assignment 7.1B: Message Relay. Student watches a signed message once without pausing, records the information remembered, then identifies which details were lost or misunderstood.
Mon	8/31	7.2 – Describing People	Assignment 7.2: Who Am I Describing? Record a 60–90 second description of a person without giving their name. Classmate must identify the person from the description.

Wed	9/2	7.2 – Descriptive Order	Assignment 7.2B: Descriptive Structure Analysis. Students analyze three ASL descriptions and identify how physical characteristics, clothing, distinguishing features, and other details are organized.
Mon	9/7	Object classifiers	Analyze classifier use in authentic ASL
Wed	9/9	7.3–7.4 – Describing Things	Assignment 7.3: Object Description. Select an unfamiliar household object and produce a detailed ASL description including size, shape, appearance, function, and distinguishing characteristics.
Mon	9/14	7.4 – Receptive Description	Assignment 7.4: Receptive Object Identification. Students watch descriptions of unfamiliar objects and match each description to the correct object.
Wed	9/16	7.5–7.6 – Descriptive Language/Classifiers	Quiz 1: Classifiers/spatial grammar Assignment 7.5: Classifier Observation. Students identify classifiers used to represent objects and explain the function of each classifier in a short written analysis.
Mon	9/21	Unit 7 Review	QUIZ 1 – Unit 7. Vocabulary in context, descriptive structure, classifiers, receptive comprehension, and short expressive response.
Wed	9/23	8.1 – Explaining a Situation/Making a Request	Assignment 8.1: Request Scenario. Create two original situations requiring a request. Explain the situation, state what you need, and make the request appropriately in ASL.
Mon	9/28	8.2 – Making Requests	Assignment 8.2: Request/Response Dialogue. Record a 2–3 minute dialogue containing one request, one acceptance, and one refusal with an appropriate explanation.
Wed	9/30	8.3–8.4 – Agreeing with Conditions	Assignment 8.3: Conditional Agreement. Students respond to five situations requiring conditional agreement and demonstrate the condition before confirming agreement.
Mon	10/5	8.5–8.6 – Negation/Phone Numbers	QUIZ 2 – Unit 8A. Negation, phone numbers, request structures, and receptive comprehension.
Wed	10/7	8.7 – Asking for Advice	Assignment 8.7: Advice Consultation. Students present a realistic problem and ask a partner for advice. Partner must provide at least two possible solutions.
Mon	10/12	8.8 – Asking for a Sign	Assignment 8.8: Communication Repair. Students demonstrate multiple strategies for requesting an unknown sign without immediately resorting to English.
Wed	10/14	8.9–8.12 – Agreement Verbs, Advice, Negation, Comprehension	Unit 8 Case Study. Students receive a scenario involving a misunderstanding, request, refusal, or problem and create an appropriate ASL response.
Mon	10/19	Unit 8 Review/Assessment	QUIZ 3 – Unit 8 Comprehensive. Receptive + grammar + expressive request/advice response.

Wed	10/21	9.1 – Discussing Neighborhoods	Assignment 9.1: My Neighborhood. Students prepare a 2-minute ASL description of where they live, including type of residence, length of residence, who they live with, and general characteristics of the area.
Mon	10/26	9.2 – Places in the Neighborhood	Assignment 9.2: Neighborhood Map. Students create a map and produce an ASL description identifying at least eight locations and their spatial relationships.
Wed	10/28	9.3 – Giving the Time	Assignment 9.3: Time in Context. Students interpret and produce schedules using ASL number/time conventions rather than translating English time expressions.
Mon	11/2	9.4 – Describing Your Neighborhood	QUIZ 4 – Unit 9A. Neighborhood vocabulary, time, spatial referencing, receptive comprehension.
Wed	11/4	9.5 – Giving Directions: Next to/Across From	Assignment 9.5: Map Directions. Student gives directions from one location to another using spatial referencing and appropriate perspective.
Mon	11/9	9.6 – Yes/No Questions	Assignment 9.6: Information Gap. Partners receive different maps and must communicate entirely in ASL to determine missing information.
Wed	11/11	9.7 – Describing a Restaurant/Classifiers	Assignment 9.7: Restaurant Description. Students describe a restaurant's layout, location of objects, seating, entrances, and relevant features using classifiers.
Mon	11/16	9.8 – Giving Directions: Where to Turn	Assignment 9.8: Navigation Challenge. Students give directions through an unfamiliar map while their partner follows without seeing the original route.
Wed	11/18	9.9–9.10 – Time/Suggesting a Place to Eat	Assignment 9.9: Make a Recommendation. Students recommend a restaurant/place to eat and explain why it is appropriate for a specific situation.
Mon	11/23	9.11 – Giving Directions/Perspective Shift	Assignment 9.11: Perspective Shift Directions. Students demonstrate directions from the perspective of the person moving through the environment rather than simply describing the map.
Wed	11/25		
Mon	11/30	Unit 7–9 integration	Integrated ASL Scenario Preparation: Students receive a situation requiring description, request/advice, and location/direction skills.
Wed	12/2	Integrated communication	Practice Performance: 5–7 minute unscripted partner interaction
Mon	12/7	Comprehensive receptive/expressive review	Final Exam Review + Individual Receptive Conference
Wed	12/9	FINAL EXAM	Receptive + expressive examination

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