

# SYLLABUS

## START ASL 1 ONLINE COURSE

Welcome to the Start ASL 1 course! We are so happy to have you as a student and we cannot wait to support you through your ASL journey and throughout this course.

This course is an online independent study course supported by an instructor. All lessons, activities, quizzes, and assignments take place in the online classroom here: [Start ASL 1 Online](#). To be considered a student of this class and receive the benefits herein, you must sign up for our official Online Course, which can be found at <https://online.startasl.com>.

**INSTRUCTOR EMAIL:** [instructor@startasl.com](mailto:instructor@startasl.com)

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### COURSE OVERVIEW

The Start ASL 1 course aims to provide students with the ability to begin to acquire proficiency in American Sign Language using a comprehensive, systematic approach. Developing spontaneous communication competency will be heavily stressed through the direct experience method/natural approach with some structured approaches for further reinforcements. Dialogue will be presented using videos for which students are required to deduce itemized vocabulary and phrases from common semantic groups and/or meaningful functions, situations, and contexts. Incorporated in this American Sign Language course will be the study and exploration of Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community.

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### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Attend Deaf cultural events to gain a deeper understanding of the culture/community
2. Include the cultural norms that are part of the initial meeting of a deaf person
3. Receptively and expressively sign ASL conversational phrases and basic greetings
4. Sign vocabulary related to animals, home and transportation, colors, time and routine, food and drink, school and education, physical features and clothing, emotions and character traits, jobs and careers, sports and music, friends and family.
5. Introduce classifier knowledge with basic handshapes
6. Expand phrases and conversational ASL related to describing people, emotions and character traits, friends and family, questions and responses, classifiers
7. Introductory understanding of Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community
8. Learn how and when to use fingerspelling the manual alphabet
9. Learn terminology used within the Deaf Community
10. Receptively and expressively sign the following numbers: cardinal, ordinal, money, age, time, fractions, and height
11. Research a topic related to Deaf Culture/Community
12. Understand ASL grammatical structure associated with wh-word questions, yes/no questions, declarative sentences, pronouns, ASL parameters, negation, pronouns/indexing, verbs, topic + comment structure, and word order variations
13. Understand the importance of non-manual markers and facial expression in ASL

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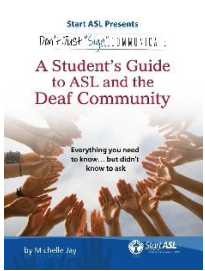
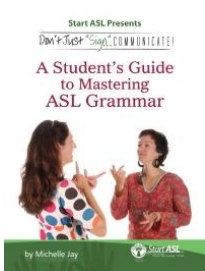
### COURSE COMPETENCIES

1. Acquire conversation skills
2. Ascertain handshapes of numbers
3. Assemble non-verb pairs
4. Construct WH Question expressions along with self-pronouns

5. Define movement and placement of classifiers in appropriate context
6. Demonstrate fingerspelling skills
7. Determine basic sentence structure using Modals
8. Determine sentence types
9. Develop awareness of Deaf Culture & the Deaf Community
10. Illustrate understanding of visual methods used in signing for personal pronouns in a specified vocabulary list
11. Process directional/non-directional verbs
12. Summarize key signing concepts by set of queries

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

### TEXTBOOKS

	<p>Jay, Michelle. <i>Don't Just "Sign"... Communicate! A Student's Guide to ASL and the Deaf Community</i>. 2011.</p>
	<p>Jay, Michelle. <i>Don't Just "Sign"... Communicate! A Student's Guide to Mastering ASL Grammar</i>. 2011.</p>

### WEBCAM

In all four course levels, you will be completing expression assignments by recording your signing. You can use a standalone webcam or a built-in laptop/cellphone/tablet webcam.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### QUIZZES

There are quizzes throughout the course to practice what you have learned and test your knowledge. You may take a quiz up to 5 times to improve your grade.

### READING ASSIGNMENTS

This course includes Reading Assignments and Reading Assignment Quizzes using the texts listed above.

### DEAF EVENTS

Attending Deaf events is a very important part of learning ASL and practicing what you have learned. You will be attending at least 3 Deaf events over the course of this class and writing one paper for each to share your experiences.

### RESEARCH PAPER

You will be responsible for writing a research paper for this class. Papers must be more than 500 words on an appropriate ASL or Deaf-related topic. Make sure to complete your Reading Assignments so that you will know what an appropriate topic would be. For example, a topic about curing deafness would be inappropriate. If you use any quotes or ideas from any resources, they must be cited at the end of your paper. Papers will be checked for plagiarism and will result in a 0 grade if not cited properly.

## EXAMS

This course includes both a Midterm and Final Exam where you will be tested on what you have learned in the course. You may take each section of each exam up to 5 times to improve your grade.

## EXPRESSIVE VIDEO MIDTERM AND FINAL

As part of the Midterm and Final Exams, you will be tested on your signing ability by submitting a video of yourself signing an assignment.

We reserve the right to make any changes to accommodate class progress.

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## EXPECTATIONS FROM STUDENT

Since this is an independent study course, self-discipline is crucial for success. To get the most out of this class, we recommend taking the time to truly learn and internalize each lesson. Do not rush through it. This means that when you learn vocabulary, take advantage of our vocabulary study sheets to better retain what you are learning. Try to get to the point where you can look at the list and know how to sign every word without watching the videos before moving on. This also means that when you learn a certain concept, strive to practice when away from your device. Find a study partner or someone with whom you can regularly sign. Practice, practice, practice! That is the best way to truly learn this language, become proficient, and move toward fluency.

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## GENERAL POLICIES

### COURSE DOWNLOADS

If you have any downloads included with your course enrollment, be sure to visit your [My Account](#) page to download your files.

### ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

Be sure to only submit full and complete assignments to the best of your ability or your points may be revoked and you may not be able to earn them again.

### ASSIGNMENT FEEDBACK

Instructor feedback is provided on all submitted Expressive Video Assignments. Please keep in mind that assignments may take up to 7-10 business days to be reviewed.

### COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

To receive your completion certificate, you must pass all quizzes, assignments, exams, and the course with at least a 70% grade. Be sure to download your completion certificate here before your course access expires: [Start ASL 1 Completion Certificate](#).

### QUESTIONS FOR THE INSTRUCTOR

The best way to contact the instructor is to send an email to the instructor email shown above or use the Instructor Chat feature within the course. Be sure to send your email from the email address you used to sign up for the course. We're happy to help!

### RESEARCH PAPER POSTING

Student research papers are often posted on the website to share with other students. If you do not wish to have your name published with your paper, please submit your paper with ANONYMOUS typed clearly at the top of your paper.

### COURSE SUBSCRIPTION

If you are subscribed to our monthly course subscription, please keep in mind that your subscription will persist even after you complete the course. When you have completed the course and wish to cancel

your subscription, you can do so by logging in and going to [My Account](#) > Subscriptions > View > Cancel. If you are signed up for our year-access course, your subscription will automatically expire at the end of the term and you will not be charged again.

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## LANGUAGE STANDARDS

### WORLD LANGUAGE STANDARDS FOR CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WL.CM1.N Demonstrate understanding of the general meaning and some basic information on very familiar common daily topics. Recognize memorized words, phrases, and simple sentences in authentic texts that are spoken, written, or signed.

- a. Receptively and expressively be able to fingerspell
- b. Understand and be able to sign basic greetings

WL.CM2.N Participate in real-world, spoken, written, or signed conversations on very familiar topics. Use memorized words, phrases, and simple sentences, and questions in highly predictable common daily settings.

- a. Receptively and expressively be able to engage in basic ASL conversation incorporating basic grammar
- b. Receptively and expressively be able to sign basic numbers
- c. Receptively and expressively be able to engage and sign WH questions

WL.CM3.N Present information in culturally appropriate ways on very familiar common daily topics using memorized words, phrases, and simple sentences through spoken, written, or signed language. Use the most suitable media and technologies to present and publish.

- a. Receptively and expressively be able to recognize and sign basic ASL phrases for conversation
- b. Incorporate technology to video yourself signing and understand teacher feedback
- c. Gain an understanding of basic Deaf Cultural awareness

WL.CM4.N Recognize opportunities to use age-appropriate, culturally authentic, real-world, and academic language in highly predictable common daily settings within target-language communities in the United States and around the world.

- a. Understand Deaf Cultural impact on society
- b. Understand Deaf Culture views and experiences
- c. Apply understandings of Deaf Culture to your life

WL.CM5.N Demonstrate understanding of words, phrases (signs and fingerspelling in ASL), and simple sentences on very familiar common daily topics. Use orthography, phonology, ASL parameters, and very basic sentence-level elements (morphology and/or syntax).

- a. Understand the use of ASL parameters and be able to identify all 5 and write out samples
- b. Be able to formulate ASL sentences using appropriate ASL grammar (ie: topic comment, rh questions, etc.)
- c. Receptively and expressively be able to sign basic conversations incorporating newly learned vocabulary

WL.CM6.N Communicate about very familiar common daily topics using words and phrases (signs and fingerspelling in ASL), and simple sentences. Use orthography, phonology or ASL parameters, and very basic sentence-level elements (morphology and/or syntax).

- a. Receptively and expressively communicate about topics known to you, incorporating newly learned vocabulary and fingerspelling
- b. Receptively and expressively communicate using ASL grammar in appropriate formation

WL.CM7.N Identify similarities and differences in the orthography, phonology, ASL parameters, and very basic sentence-level elements (morphology and/or syntax) of the languages known.

- a. Recognize and be able to produce non-manual markers
- b. Recognize and be able to write basic ASL gloss

## **CULTURAL STANDARDS**

WL.CL1.N Use age-appropriate gestures and expressions in very familiar, common daily settings.

- a. Understand ASL non-manual markers and be able to produce appropriate expression and gestures

WL.CL2.N Experience, recognize, and explore the relationships among typical age-appropriate target cultures' products, practices, and perspectives in culturally appropriate ways in very familiar common daily settings.

- a. Research and understand Deaf Culture events, topics and how they relate to Hearing Culture

WL.CL3.N Identify some similarities and differences among very familiar, common daily products, practices, and perspectives in the mainstream cultures of the United States, the students' own cultures, and the target cultures.

- a. Compare and contrast Deaf and Hearing Culture (values, beliefs and customs)

WL.CL4.N Identify cultural borrowings.

- a. Understand Deaf Culture history and its impact
- b. Understand ASL storytelling and its impact on Deaf Cultural traditions

## **CONNECTIONS TO OTHER DISCIPLINES**

WL.CN1.N Acquire, exchange, and present information primarily in the target language about very familiar common daily elements of life and age-appropriate academic content across disciplines.

- a. Expressively communicate about daily life occurrences that apply to your current life (ie: school day, transportation)

WL.CN2.N Recognize diverse perspectives and distinctive viewpoints on very familiar common daily topics, primarily in the target language, from age-appropriate authentic materials from the target cultures.

- a. Receptively and expressively be able to communicate simple personal opinions such as likes and dislikes

## **COURSE STANDARDS FROM AMERICAN COUNCIL ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (ACTFL)**

### **Communicate in American Sign Language**

Standard 1.1 Students engage in conversations and correspondence in American Sign Language to provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.

Standard 1.2 Students comprehend and interpret live and recorded American Sign Language on a variety of topics.

Standard 1.3 Students present information, concepts, and ideas in American Sign Language to an audience of viewers on a variety of topics.

**Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Deaf Culture**

Standard 2.1 Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of American Deaf culture.

**Use American Sign Language to Connect with Other Disciplines & Acquire Information**

Standard 3.1 Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through American Sign Language.

**Develop Insight into the Nature of Language and Culture**

Standard 4.1 Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of American Sign Language and their own languages.

**Use American Sign Language to Participate in Communities at Home and Around the World**

Standard 5.1 Students use American Sign Language within and beyond the school setting.

## ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Below you will find our course assignment schedule/checklist. Click on each lesson and assignment name to be taken to those sections in the online classroom. The weeks that are shown are suggested to complete the course within a college semester. To complete the course within a high school year, we recommend allotting two weeks to complete each suggested week.

WK	UNIT	LESSONS	ASSIGNMENTS	√	% GRADE
1	Intro	<a href="#">Introduction</a>			
			<a href="#">To Do: Introduce Yourself</a>		
			<a href="#">Assignment: Online Student Community Group Responses</a>		
	Unit 1	<a href="#">Unit 1 Vocabulary – First Signs</a>			
		<a href="#">Conversation 1.1</a>			
		<a href="#">Fingerspelling Lesson</a>			
			<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.1</a>		
2	Unit 2	<a href="#">Unit 2 Vocabulary – Food &amp; Drink</a>			
		<a href="#">Cardinal Numbers 1-10 Lesson</a>			
		<a href="#">Lexicalized Fingerspelling Lesson</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Fingerspelling Quiz 1.1</a>		
			<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.2</a>		
3	Unit 3	<a href="#">Unit 3 Vocabulary – School &amp; Education</a>			
		<a href="#">Conversation 1.2</a>			
		<a href="#">The Five Sign Parameters – Part 1 Lesson</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Numbers and Vocabulary Quiz 1.1</a>		
			<a href="#">Receptive Numbers and Fingerspelling Quiz 1.1</a>		
			<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.3</a>		
			<a href="#">Deaf Event Assignment 1.1</a>		
4	Unit 4	<a href="#">Unit 4 Vocabulary - Animals, Home, &amp; Transportation</a>			
		<a href="#">The Five Sign Parameters - Part 2 Lesson</a>			
			<a href="#">Five Parameters Quiz</a>		
		<a href="#">Expressive Fingerspelling Practice</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Fingerspelling Quiz 1.2</a>		
			<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.4</a>		
5	Unit 5	<a href="#">Unit 5 Vocabulary - Colors, Time, &amp; Routine</a>			
		<a href="#">Conversation 1.3</a>			
		<a href="#">Word Order Lesson</a>			
		<a href="#">Cardinal Numbers 11-20 Lesson</a>			
			<a href="#">Word Order Quiz</a>		
			<a href="#">Receptive Fingerspelling Quiz 1.3</a>		
			<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.5</a>		
6	Midterm		<a href="#">Receptive Midterm Exam</a>		
			<a href="#">Receptive Comprehension Midterm Exam</a>		
7			<a href="#">Expressive Midterm Exam</a>		
			<a href="#">Research Paper</a>		

8	Unit 6	<a href="#">Unit 6 Vocabulary - Sports &amp; Music</a>				
		<a href="#">Sentence Types: Questions Lesson</a>				
			<a href="#">Sentence Types: Questions Quiz</a>			
		<a href="#">Sentence Types: Declarative Sentences Lesson</a>				
			<a href="#">Sentence Types: Declaratives Quiz</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Numbers and Vocabulary Quiz 1.2</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Fingerspelling Quiz 1.4</a>			
		<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.6</a>				
9	Unit 7	<a href="#">Unit 7 Vocabulary - Friends &amp; Family</a>				
		<a href="#">Conversation 1.4</a>				
		<a href="#">Pronouns and Indexing Lesson</a>				
			<a href="#">Pronouns and Indexing Quiz</a>			
		<a href="#">Cardinal Numbers 21-30 Lesson</a>				
			<a href="#">Receptive Numbers and Vocabulary Quiz 1.3</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Fingerspelling Quiz 1.5</a>			
		<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.7</a>				
10	Unit 8	<a href="#">Unit 8 Vocabulary - Physical Features &amp; Clothing</a>				
		<a href="#">Classifiers Lesson (CL:1, CL:2, CL:3)</a>				
			<a href="#">Classifiers Quiz 1.1</a>			
		<a href="#">Cardinal Numbers: 2-Digit and Multiples of 10 &amp; 11 Lesson</a>				
			<a href="#">Receptive Numbers and Vocabulary Quiz 1.4</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Fingerspelling Quiz 1.6</a>			
				<a href="#">Deaf Event Assignment 1.2</a>		
11	Unit 9	<a href="#">Unit 9 Vocabulary - Jobs &amp; Careers</a>				
		<a href="#">Conversation 1.5</a>				
		<a href="#">Verbs Lesson</a>				
			<a href="#">Verbs Quiz</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Fingerspelling Quiz 1.7</a>			
			<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.8</a>			
12	Unit 10	<a href="#">Unit 10 Vocabulary - Emotions &amp; Character Traits</a>				
		<a href="#">Classifiers Lesson (CL:4, CL:5)</a>				
			<a href="#">Classifiers Quiz 1.2</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Comprehension Quiz 1.1</a>			
			<a href="#">Receptive Fingerspelling Quiz 1.8</a>			
13	Unit 11	<a href="#">Conversation 1.6</a>				
		<a href="#">Identifying People Lesson</a>				
			<a href="#">Identifying People Quiz</a>			
		<a href="#">Cardinal Numbers: Numbers 100 and Above</a>				
			<a href="#">Receptive Numbers and Vocabulary Quiz 1.5</a>			
				<a href="#">Deaf Event Assignment 1.3</a>		
14	Unit 12	<a href="#">Unit 12 Vocabulary - Advanced Numbers</a>				



		<a href="#">More Numbers Lesson</a>			
			<a href="#">Number Types Quiz</a>		
			<a href="#">Receptive Fingerspelling Quiz 1.9</a>		
			<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.9</a>		
<b>15</b>	Final		<a href="#">Receptive Final Exam</a>		
			<a href="#">Receptive Comprehension Final Exam</a>		
			<a href="#">Receptive Classifiers Comprehension Final Exam</a>		
			<a href="#">Expressive Final Exam</a>		
			<a href="#">Reading Assignment Quiz 1.10</a>		
			<b>FINAL GRADE:</b>		

*This schedule is tentative and is subject to change at any time.*