

Course: American Sign Language - Beginner

Instructor: Dawn Shadow, B.A. Deaf Education, former teacher at Mississippi School for the Deaf

Contact: dshadowRAC@gmail.com

Course Description: This course is an introductory class for students with little or no experience in American Sign Language and will include basics such as fingerspelling, vocabulary, grammar and syntax, Deaf culture and history, differences between English and ASL, and other linguistic proficiencies, suitable for a one-year high school foreign language credit.

Prerequisites: none

Class Fees and Payment: The cost of the class is \$40 per month or \$320 for the year, plus a one-time \$20 supply fee. Please see the registration packet for payment options and details.

Materials Needed: Requires home internet access to view/complete assignments on Canvas, as well as access to camera capabilities to record and submit short videos of student signing (laptop, tablet or cell phone will work for this). A variety of print/online materials as selected by the instructor will be used, but students are not required to purchase a text. Students are encouraged to bring paper/pen to class to take notes as we go over tips for remembering vocabulary (and students might come up with their own hints as we discuss).

Course Evaluation: Students will be expected to be attentive and to participate in classroom discussion. Completion grades will be given for homework assignments. Students will take brief quizzes (some in class but more often online) as well as both midterm and final exams on previously covered material. However, any writing on these will be minimal (in the form of single word or short sentence answers) and the class is friendly to those with dyslexia or who struggle to write in longer essay formats.

Parental Involvement: *Learning any foreign language requires much practice, including ASL. Students are expected to review and practice often at home.* Students will benefit greatly if they are encouraged and allowed to regularly teach the material to someone else, perhaps a parent or sibling. Please hold your student accountable for completing homework assignments. It is the student's responsibility to inquire about what was missed if they are out of class.

Classroom Behavior: As this class will be very interactive, students will be expected to work along with the instructor and the class to learn and practice what is being discussed. Students are expected to show respect for the teacher and other students. Cell phones should be silenced and put away during class time. Students may bring a water bottle to class, but should refrain from eating.