

Course Descriptions for ASL Minor (18-22 credits)

AM 148 (ASL 4) – 3 credits

This course promotes the shifting from comprehension to production of ASL with the main emphasis being the use of classifiers. The goal being greater fluency in self-generated ASL.

AM 149 (ASL 5) – 4 credits

This course provides an opportunity for students to expand on their ASL skills acquired during levels 1-4 and to pursue greater fluency with the language. Basic skills are the scaffold for increasingly complex levels of discourse. Students will incorporate more nuanced sentence structures into ASL narratives, expand the use of multiple character roles, and further broaden their vocabulary base. (matches CSN and WNC)

AM 253 (Deaf Culture) – 3 credits

This course introduces students to Deaf Culture in the United States. Students will gain an understanding of the impacts of the medical, social, and cultural-linguistic perspectives on Deaf people through recent history, as well as recognize the role of ableism and oralism in shaping Deaf experiences. They will explore Deaf cultural norms, expression in the arts, and empowerment movements, in addition to applying a critical lens to Deaf representation and its effects on present day issues for the Deaf community. (matches NSC, CSN and WNC)

AM 254 (Deaf History) – 3 credits

This course introduces students to the history of Deaf people and the evolution of their language in the western world. Students will study the sociological, psychological, political and educational forces that have shaped the Deaf experience here in the United States, and abroad. (matches NSC, CSN and WNC)

AM 300 (Advanced Conversation) – 3 credits

Advanced practice in expressive and receptive American Sign Language communication. This class is conducted completely in ASL and will provide students with an immersion experience. Pre-requisite: AM 149 or instructor approval. (matches NSC)

AM 390 (ASL Structure) – 3 credits

An examination of ASL structure, its morphology, syntax, and change over time. This course examines the unique modality of signed languages, and includes a comparison to other linguistics structures, as well as accents and regional variations. (matches NSC)

AM 400 (Service Learning in ASL) – 3 credits

This course provides hands on learning through supportive, volunteer service to the Deaf and hard of hearing (HoH) community in our area. Service learning in ASL combines civic engagement with academic instruction, and focuses on how best to serve this unique population. This course will also examine the specific demographics of the Deaf/HoH population here in the Truckee Meadows. AM 400 requires critical and reflective thinking about service learning and emphasizes a deep respect for marginalized populations.

AM 151 Fingerspelling I – 1 credit

This course offers students an introduction to fingerspelling and numbers in American Sign Language. Students will build practical expressive skills in fingerspelling words and signing numbers relating to everyday life situations and specialized topics. They will also develop critical receptive skills for understanding the fingerspelling and signing of others, in addition to gain an understanding of the role of fingerspelling in ASL and Deaf culture.

AM 152 Fingerspelling II – 1 credit

This course offers students a continuation of fingerspelling and numbers in American Sign Language. Students will continue to build practical expressive skills in fingerspelling words and signing numbers relating to everyday life situations and specialized topics. They will also develop a greater level of receptive skills for understanding the fingerspelling and signing of others, in addition to deepening their understanding of the role of fingerspelling in ASL and Deaf culture.