

American Sign Language (ASL) 4

World Languages
NCAA Approved

Grade(s) 12th, Duration 1 Year, 1 Credit
Elective Course

Course Overview

ASL 4 represents the culminating course in the ASL sequence, emphasizing advanced fluency, nuanced expression, and comprehension across complex social, academic, and professional contexts. Students engage in persuasive discourse, debates, and extended narratives, using figurative language, classifiers, and role-shifting to convey meaning with subtlety and precision. Receptive skills focus on interpreting lectures, media, and authentic ASL content for full comprehension, including emotional tone and cultural context. Reading and writing skills enable analysis, documentation, and presentation of research and professional content using glossing conventions. Cultural study extends to global perspectives, policy, and leadership within the Deaf community. Practical applications focus on career readiness, college preparation, and community leadership, culminating in capstone projects that integrate language proficiency, cultural understanding, and professional skills. Graduates of ASL 4 demonstrate advanced-level proficiency, capable of participating in authentic ASL interactions with fluency, accuracy, and cultural competence.

Scope And Sequence

Timeframe	Unit	Instructional Topics
10 Week(s)	Refined Expressive Skills and Advanced Storytelling	1. Complex Narratives, Persuasive Discourse, and Debate 2. Advanced Grammar, Figurative Language, and Role-Shifting
8 Week(s)	Expert Receptive Skills	1. Analyzing Lectures, News, Media, and Academic Presentations in ASL 2. Interpreting Subtle Meaning, Emotion, and Context
6 Week(s)	Research, Reading, and Writing in ASL	1. Glossing Academic and Professional Texts 2. Producing Reports, Analyses, and Presentations in ASL
6 Week(s)	Cultural, Social, and Historical Analysis	1. Deaf Culture, History, and Policy 2. Advocacy, Leadership, and Global Perspectives
6 Week(s)	Capstone Applications: College, Career, and Community Leadership	1. Professional Networking, Mentoring, and Interpreting 2. College Readiness, Scholarship Pursuit, and Community Engagement

Course Details

Unit: Refined Expressive Skills and Advanced Storytelling

Duration: 10 Week(s)

Unit Description

This unit emphasizes mastery of expressive ASL through advanced storytelling, persuasive discourse, debate, and complex narrative construction. Students integrate nuanced grammar, classifiers, role-shifting, and figurative language to communicate with precision and clarity. Expressive skills are applied in presentations, peer dialogues, and project-based tasks across academic, social, and professional contexts. By the end of the unit, students will demonstrate advanced expressive fluency, capable of conveying complex ideas, opinions, and narratives while adhering to the cultural conventions of the Deaf community.

Topic: Complex Narratives, Persuasive Discourse, and Debate

Duration: 5 Week(s)

Topic Overview

This topic immerses students in the advanced construction and interpretation of complex narratives, persuasive discourse, and formal debate in American Sign Language (ASL). Learners will explore multi-layered storytelling techniques, logical argumentation, rhetorical strategies, and audience engagement, emphasizing clarity, coherence, and expressive nuance. Students will analyze the use of role-shifting, classifiers, spatial referencing, and non-manual markers to convey perspective, emphasis, and subtle meaning in both narrative and argumentative contexts. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, structured preparation, and effective delivery in academic, professional, and public settings. Through activities such as preparing and performing narratives, participating in debates, and peer feedback, learners will refine expressive and receptive skills, integrating cultural competence, grammar accuracy, and advanced ASL fluency. By the end of this topic, students will demonstrate the ability to produce and analyze sophisticated ASL communication, effectively arguing points, persuading audiences, and conveying intricate stories with clarity and impact.

Learning Objectives

Construct and Perform Complex Narratives

Description: *Students will create multi-layered stories incorporating advanced grammar, sequencing, classifiers, role-shifting, and non-manual markers, ensuring coherence, expressive depth, and cultural appropriateness.*

Develop Persuasive Discourse Skills

Description: *Students will formulate and present structured arguments, using logical reasoning, rhetorical strategies, and expressive ASL features to persuade audiences in academic or professional contexts.*

Participate in Formal Debates

Description: *Students will engage in debates on selected topics, demonstrating the ability to present evidence, respond to counterarguments, and maintain clarity, fluency, and persuasive impact in real-time communication.*

Analyze and Evaluate Complex ASL Communication

Description: *Students will critically analyze narratives, arguments, and debates by peers or recorded sources, identifying effective strategies, persuasive techniques, and expressive features, while reflecting on areas for improvement and application in advanced communication scenarios.*

Priority Learning Objective = ★

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Topic: Advanced Grammar, Figurative Language, and Role-Shifting

Duration: 5 Week(s)

Topic Overview

This topic focuses on deepening students' mastery of advanced grammatical structures, figurative language, and role-shifting techniques in American Sign Language (ASL) to enhance expressive precision and narrative depth. Learners will explore complex sentence constructions, metaphorical and idiomatic expressions, and the use of classifiers, spatial referencing, and non-manual markers to convey nuanced meaning. Emphasis is placed on integrating these elements into storytelling, persuasive communication, and academic discourse, allowing students to communicate with sophistication and cultural authenticity. Through activities such as analyzing advanced ASL texts, creating original narratives, and performing role-played scenarios, learners will refine their expressive and receptive skills, demonstrating fluency, clarity, and cultural sensitivity. By the end of this topic, students will be able to produce and interpret nuanced ASL communication, effectively utilizing advanced grammar, figurative language, and role-shifting to convey meaning, emotion, and perspective in complex social, academic, and professional contexts.

Learning Objectives

Master Complex Grammatical Structures

Description: *Students will analyze and apply advanced ASL grammatical patterns, including conditional statements, complex sentence embedding, and syntactic variation, to enhance clarity and expressive depth in both narratives and discourse.*

Interpret and Use Figurative Language

Description: *Students will identify metaphors, idioms, and symbolic gestures within ASL narratives and discourse, and incorporate figurative language into their own expressive work, demonstrating comprehension and cultural awareness.*

Apply Role-Shifting for Perspective and Characterization

Description: *Students will employ role-shifting to clearly convey multiple perspectives, differentiate characters, and enhance narrative or argumentative coherence in storytelling, debates, and presentations.*

Integrate Advanced Language Features into Communication

Description: *Students will combine advanced grammar, figurative language, and role-shifting in extended narratives, persuasive discourse, or academic presentations, demonstrating fluency, precision, and cultural competence in sophisticated ASL communication.*

Priority Learning Objective = ★

Learning Objectives linked to Essential Standard = ✚

Unit: Expert Receptive Skills

Duration: 8 Week(s)

Unit Description

This unit focuses on interpreting highly complex, authentic ASL communication, including lectures, media, professional presentations, and academic discourse. Students develop strategies for understanding nuanced meaning, emotional tone, figurative language, and context-specific signs. Emphasis is placed on comprehension of extended conversations, debates, and storytelling, as well as the ability to respond thoughtfully and accurately. By the end of the unit, learners will demonstrate advanced receptive proficiency, capable of engaging with diverse, authentic signed communication independently.

Topic: Analyzing Lectures, News, Media, and Academic Presentations in ASL

Duration: 4 Week(s)

Topic Overview

This topic focuses on developing students' advanced receptive skills for understanding extended and complex ASL communication in lectures, news broadcasts, media content, and academic presentations. Learners will practice identifying main ideas, supporting details, rhetorical strategies, and persuasive techniques while interpreting advanced vocabulary, non-manual markers, classifiers, and spatial referencing. Emphasis is placed on active viewing strategies, note-taking in gloss, critical analysis, and summarization to ensure accurate comprehension and retention of nuanced content. Students will engage with authentic materials, including recorded lectures, news segments, panel discussions, and scholarly presentations, applying analytical and interpretive strategies to evaluate content, context, and effectiveness. By the end of this topic, learners will demonstrate the ability to comprehend, summarize, and critically assess complex ASL communication across media and academic contexts, preparing them for advanced academic, professional, and civic participation.

Learning Objectives

Identify Main Ideas and Supporting Details

Description: *Students will extract key points, arguments, and evidence from extended ASL content, using structured note-taking and glossing to summarize and retain critical information accurately.*

Analyze Advanced Linguistic and Expressive Features

Description: *Students will examine the use of classifiers, non-manual markers, spatial referencing, and advanced vocabulary to interpret tone, emphasis, and nuanced meaning in lectures, news, and presentations.*

Critically Evaluate Content and Rhetorical Strategies

Description: *Students will assess the effectiveness of arguments, presentation techniques, and communication strategies, reflecting on clarity, coherence, and persuasive impact in academic and media contexts.*

Apply Comprehension Strategies in Academic and Professional Settings

Description: *Students will practice interpreting and summarizing complex ASL content in real-time or post-viewing exercises, demonstrating readiness for higher education, professional collaboration, and informed civic engagement.*

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Topic: Interpreting Subtle Meaning, Emotion, and Context

Duration: 4 Week(s)

Topic Overview

This topic focuses on refining students' ability to interpret and convey subtle meaning, emotion, and contextual nuances in American Sign Language (ASL). Learners will explore how facial expressions, body language, role-shifting, spatial referencing, and non-manual markers contribute to conveying tone, intent, and emotional depth, particularly in complex narratives, debates, and professional or academic presentations. Emphasis is placed on analyzing how context, audience, and cultural norms shape interpretation, while developing strategies to recognize implied meanings, sarcasm, humor, and persuasive elements. Students will engage in activities such as analyzing authentic ASL media, performing role-played scenarios, interpreting recorded dialogues, and providing reflective feedback. By the end of this topic, learners will demonstrate the ability to accurately interpret subtle linguistic and emotional cues, respond appropriately in dynamic communication situations, and produce nuanced ASL that effectively conveys meaning and intent across diverse contexts.

Learning Objectives

Identify and Interpret Subtle Linguistic Cues

Description: *Students will analyze advanced ASL features, including non-manual markers, classifiers, and spatial referencing, to detect tone, emphasis, and implied meaning within narratives, discussions, or presentations.*

Recognize and Convey Emotional Nuances

Description: *Students will practice interpreting and expressing emotions such as sarcasm, humor, urgency, or empathy through facial expressions, body language, and role-shifting, ensuring accurate communication of emotional content.*

Consider Context in Interpretation

Description: *Students will evaluate how audience, setting, purpose, and cultural norms influence meaning, adapting their comprehension and expressive strategies to ensure clarity, appropriateness, and sensitivity.*

Apply Subtle Interpretation Skills in Real-Time Communication

Description: *Students will engage in live or simulated ASL interactions, demonstrating the ability to interpret and respond to nuanced communication, accurately conveying meaning, tone, and intent in professional, academic, and social contexts.*

Priority Learning Objective = ★

Learning Objectives linked to Essential Standard = ✚

Unit: Research, Reading, and Writing in ASL

Duration: 6 Week(s)

Unit Description

In this unit, students refine skills in glossing and written analysis of extended ASL texts, academic content, and professional materials. Students practice producing detailed summaries, analyses, and presentations that accurately reflect signed communication, integrating figurative language, role-shifting, and classifiers. The unit emphasizes critical thinking, organization, and clarity in both written and signed formats. By the end of the unit, learners will be able to analyze, interpret, and document complex ASL communication for academic, professional, and creative purposes.

Topic: Glossing Academic and Professional Texts

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

This topic focuses on developing students' advanced skills in glossing complex academic and professional ASL texts, bridging expressive signing with precise written documentation. Learners will engage with extended narratives, debates, lectures, and professional presentations, analyzing syntax, classifiers, spatial referencing, non-manual markers, and advanced vocabulary to accurately represent meaning in gloss. Emphasis is placed on interpreting nuanced content, maintaining fidelity to the original signed message, and producing coherent written representations suitable for academic or professional purposes. Students will participate in activities such as transcribing recorded content, annotating gloss with grammatical and expressive features, peer review, and reflective analysis. By the end of this topic, learners will demonstrate proficiency in glossing extended ASL texts, accurately capturing linguistic complexity, contextual cues, and expressive nuances, supporting advanced comprehension, documentation, and communication across educational and professional settings.

Learning Objectives

Transcribe Complex ASL Content Accurately

Description: *Students will convert extended narratives, lectures, debates, or presentations into gloss notation, applying conventions for word order, non-manual markers, classifiers, and spatial referencing to ensure accurate written representation.*

Analyze Linguistic and Expressive Features

Description: *Students will identify advanced ASL structures, figurative language, and expressive elements within texts, noting how these features convey tone, emphasis, and nuanced meaning in academic and professional contexts.*

Summarize and Interpret Extended Content

Description: *Students will create coherent gloss summaries of academic or professional ASL texts, highlighting main ideas, supporting details, and rhetorical strategies, demonstrating critical comprehension and analytical skills.*

Apply Glossing Skills for Academic and Professional Communication

Description: *Students will practice producing and reviewing glossed content for clarity, accuracy, and cultural appropriateness, preparing them for documentation, research, presentations, or professional collaboration in real-world contexts.*

Priority Learning Objective = ★

Learning Objectives linked to Essential Standard = ✚

Topic: Producing Reports, Analyses, and Presentations in ASL

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

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This topic emphasizes the advanced expressive skills required to produce formal reports, analytical content, and professional or academic presentations in American Sign Language (ASL). Learners will explore structuring content logically, incorporating advanced vocabulary, figurative language, classifiers, role-shifting, and non-manual markers to convey complex ideas clearly and persuasively. Emphasis is placed on preparing and delivering content for diverse audiences, integrating research, critical analysis, and cultural awareness to enhance communication effectiveness. Students will engage in activities such as drafting and performing presentations, peer review, analyzing exemplary ASL reports, and reflecting on clarity, engagement, and accuracy. By the end of this topic, learners will demonstrate the ability to produce and present structured ASL content that communicates sophisticated ideas, supports academic or professional objectives, and reflects both linguistic precision and cultural competence.

Learning Objectives

Organize and Structure Reports and Presentations

Description: *Students will plan and sequence content for reports, analyses, and presentations, ensuring logical flow, clarity, and coherence while incorporating appropriate ASL grammar, vocabulary, and visual strategies.*

Integrate Advanced Expressive Features

Description: *Students will employ classifiers, role-shifting, non-manual markers, and figurative language to enhance meaning, emphasize key points, and convey nuanced ideas effectively during presentations.*

Communicate Analyses Clearly and Persuasively

Description: *Students will practice delivering analytical content and reports with precision and persuasiveness, adapting tone, register, and expressive strategies to suit diverse audiences and contexts.*

Evaluate and Reflect on Presentation Effectiveness

Description: *Students will review their own and peers' presentations, assessing clarity, engagement, accuracy, and cultural appropriateness, and apply feedback to refine expressive skills and professional communication proficiency.*

Priority Learning Objective = ★
Learning Objectives linked to Essential Standard = ✚

Unit: Cultural, Social, and Historical Analysis

Duration: 6 Week(s)

Unit Description

This unit explores global and contemporary Deaf culture, history, policy, and social issues, emphasizing leadership, advocacy, and the societal role of ASL. Students examine how culture, policy, and social factors influence communication and identity, and reflect on the responsibilities of informed community participation. Activities include research, discussion, and engagement with Deaf organizations. By the end of the unit, students will demonstrate advanced cultural competence, informed understanding of social and historical influences, and the ability to navigate diverse Deaf community contexts.

Topic: Deaf Culture, History, and Policy

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

This topic engages students in a comprehensive examination of Deaf culture, historical developments, and policies affecting the Deaf community at local, national, and international levels. Learners will explore key historical events, influential leaders, legislation, and advocacy efforts that have shaped access to education, employment, healthcare, and communication rights for Deaf individuals. Emphasis is placed on understanding how cultural values, community norms, and public policy intersect, influencing identity, social inclusion, and opportunities for empowerment. Students will participate in research, analysis of historical and contemporary texts, discussions, and reflective projects, examining the role of ASL and cultural competence in advocacy and policy-making. By the end of this topic, learners will demonstrate the ability to articulate the significance of historical and policy developments, analyze their impact on the Deaf community, and apply cultural and civic understanding to engage responsibly in contemporary social and professional contexts.

Learning Objectives

Analyze Key Historical Events and Figures

Description: *Students will research and evaluate significant milestones, individuals, and movements that have shaped Deaf culture and community identity, connecting historical context to contemporary experiences.*

Examine Policies and Legislation Affecting the Deaf Community

Description: *Students will study local, national, and international laws, regulations, and advocacy initiatives, assessing their impact on access, equity, and opportunities for Deaf individuals.*

Understand Cultural Norms and Values in the Deaf Community

Description: *Students will explore traditions, social practices, and community norms, reflecting on how these cultural aspects influence communication, identity, and inclusion within the Deaf community.*

Apply Knowledge to Civic and Community Engagement

Description: *Students will design or participate in projects that demonstrate understanding of cultural, historical, and policy issues, applying ASL communication, advocacy skills, and cultural competence to real-world social, academic, or professional contexts.*

Priority Learning Objective = ★
Learning Objectives linked to Essential Standard = ✚

Topic: Advocacy, Leadership, and Global Perspectives

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

This topic emphasizes the development of advocacy, leadership, and global awareness skills within the Deaf community and broader societal contexts. Learners will explore strategies for promoting accessibility, equity, and inclusion in educational, professional, and community settings, while examining how Deaf culture and ASL intersect with global perspectives and international policies. Emphasis is placed on

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applying critical thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and effective communication to lead initiatives, advocate for rights, and influence social change. Students will engage in projects such as designing advocacy campaigns, participating in leadership simulations, collaborating with community organizations, and researching international Deaf communities and policies. By the end of this topic, learners will demonstrate the ability to lead initiatives, advocate effectively for Deaf individuals and communities, and understand how cultural, social, and policy contexts influence global Deaf experiences.

Learning Objectives

Develop Advocacy Skills

Description: *Students will create and implement initiatives that address accessibility, equity, and inclusion, using ASL communication and cultural understanding to advocate for the Deaf community in local, national, or global contexts.*

Demonstrate Leadership Competence

Description: *Students will practice leadership strategies by organizing projects, facilitating group collaboration, and guiding discussions, demonstrating accountability, decision-making, and cultural competence.*

Analyze Global Deaf Perspectives

Description: *Students will research and evaluate the experiences, policies, and cultural practices of Deaf communities worldwide, comparing international approaches to education, accessibility, and advocacy.*

Apply Critical Thinking to Social and Policy Issues

Description: *Students will assess challenges and opportunities facing the Deaf community, propose solutions, and develop actionable plans for advocacy or leadership initiatives, integrating ASL communication and cultural awareness in real-world contexts.*

Priority Learning Objective = ★

Learning Objectives linked to Essential Standard = ✚

Unit: Capstone Applications: College, Career, and Community Leadership

Duration: 6 Week(s)

Unit Description

This unit integrates ASL proficiency, cultural understanding, and professional skills through capstone projects, presentations, and community engagement. Students explore career pathways, college preparation, interpreting, mentoring, and leadership opportunities in Deaf communities. Emphasis is placed on applying language skills in authentic, high-stakes scenarios that require both expressive and receptive fluency, cultural competence, and professionalism. By the end of the unit, students will demonstrate advanced mastery of ASL in academic, professional, and social contexts, ready for postsecondary success and leadership within the Deaf community.

Topic: Professional Networking, Mentoring, and Interpreting

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

This topic focuses on preparing students to engage in professional networking, mentoring, and interpreting opportunities within the Deaf community and broader professional contexts. Learners will explore strategies for building meaningful professional relationships, collaborating with mentors, and participating in interpreting or translation activities while maintaining accuracy, cultural competence, and ethical standards. Emphasis is placed on developing interpersonal, organizational, and communication skills necessary for academic, workplace, and community engagement. Students will engage in activities such as networking simulations, mentoring exercises, mock interpreting scenarios, and reflective practice to strengthen fluency, professionalism, and cultural understanding. By the end of this topic, learners will demonstrate the ability to effectively network, mentor, and interpret in ASL, fostering professional growth, community engagement, and the promotion of accessibility and inclusion in diverse settings.

Learning Objectives

Develop Professional Networking Skills

Description: *Students will identify and utilize strategies to establish and maintain professional relationships, including communication etiquette, collaborative engagement, and culturally appropriate interaction within Deaf and mixed-language communities.*

Engage in Mentoring Activities

Description: *Students will participate in mentoring exercises, providing guidance, support, and feedback to peers or younger learners, demonstrating leadership, responsibility, and effective communication in ASL.*

Practice Interpreting and Translation Skills

Description: *Students will engage in structured interpreting scenarios, accurately conveying meaning between ASL and English while maintaining grammatical integrity, tone, and cultural appropriateness.*

Reflect on Professional Growth and Ethical Standards

Description: *Students will assess their performance in networking, mentoring, and interpreting contexts, identifying strengths, areas for improvement, and strategies for maintaining ethical, culturally competent, and effective professional practice.*

Priority Learning Objective = ★

Learning Objectives linked to Essential Standard = ✚

Topic: College Readiness, Scholarship Pursuit, and Community Engagement

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

This topic prepares students to transition successfully into postsecondary education while leveraging their ASL skills, cultural knowledge, and community engagement experience. Learners will explore strategies for college readiness, including application processes, scholarship research, and academic planning, while integrating ASL communication and cultural competence into real-world contexts. Emphasis is placed on connecting academic goals with community involvement, leadership opportunities, and service projects that enhance personal growth and

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social responsibility. Students will engage in activities such as researching scholarship opportunities, preparing application materials, participating in community service or leadership initiatives, and presenting findings or reflections in ASL. By the end of this topic, learners will demonstrate the ability to navigate college applications, pursue scholarships, and actively contribute to their communities, applying advanced ASL skills, cultural awareness, and professional communication strategies in meaningful contexts.

Learning Objectives

Develop College Readiness Skills

Description: *Students will research college options, understand admission requirements, and prepare application materials, integrating ASL proficiency and cultural knowledge to effectively communicate their qualifications and goals.*

Identify and Pursue Scholarship Opportunities

Description: *Students will research scholarships related to ASL, Deaf Studies, or other areas of interest, evaluate eligibility criteria, and develop application strategies, demonstrating organizational skills and attention to detail.*

Engage in Community Service and Leadership

Description: *Students will participate in projects or initiatives that promote social responsibility, inclusion, and cultural awareness, applying leadership, teamwork, and ASL communication skills to make a positive impact.*

Integrate Academic and Community Goals

Description: *Students will reflect on the connection between their educational aspirations, scholarship pursuits, and community engagement, developing actionable plans that align academic success with social contribution and lifelong learning.*

Priority Learning Objective = ★

Learning Objectives linked to Essential Standard = ✚