American Sign Language (ASLD)

ASLD 071 American Sign Language I
Introduction to American Sign Language (ASL). Introduces ASL in a contextualized and conversational manner. Course includes receptive and expressive readiness activities, sign vocabulary and grammar, and an introduction to important topics and people within Deaf communities and Deaf culture. Offered through the Penn Language Center
For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

ASLD 072 American Sign Language II
Increased communication skill in American Sign Language (ASL). Expressive and receptive abilities are expanded upon via a contextualized and conversational manner. Important topics to Deaf communities and Deaf culture are continued within online and in-class discussion. Offered through the Penn Language Center.
For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: ASLD 071
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

ASLD 073 American Sign Language III
American Sign Language (ASL) at the Intermediate I level. Expressive and receptive abilities are expanded upon via a contextualized and conversational manner, including, but not limited to, narrative production. Important topics to Deaf communities and Deaf culture are continued within online and in-class discussion. Offered through the Penn Language Center.
For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: ASLD 072
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

ASLD 074 American Sign Language IV
American Sign Language (ASL) at the Intermediate II level. Expressive and receptive abilities are expanded upon via a contextualized and conversational manner, including, but not limited to, narrative production. Important topics to Deaf communities and Deaf culture are continued within online and in-class discussion. Offered through Penn Language Center.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: ASLD 073
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

ASLD 075 American Sign Language V
This is an advanced ASL course in which students expand their conversational and narrative range. While receptive readiness activities continue to be an important part of the class, the emphasis moves toward honing expressive sign skills through narrative presentation and ASL-only class discussions. Various aspects of Deaf culture and cultural behavior rules will be incorporated into the course. A large component of the course is a unit on Deaf history in which students read and discuss major events and famous deaf people via readings, film, class lectures and discussions, and other outside resources. Offered through Penn Language Center.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: ASLD 074
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Offered through the Penn Language Center

ASLD 076 Deaf Literature, Performance, Art, and Film
This course is an advanced/conversational ASL course that explores several key topics related to Deaf culture and the Deaf experience's influence on literature (both written and signed), theatre, fine and visual arts, and film—both Deaf and hearing directed and acted. Using only ASL in class, students learn about various perspectives and approaches to each of the themes and topics of the course. Some questions to explore and answer in this course will be: What is Deaf Literature? The Deaf Lens: What is it? How is it different from a hearing perspective on film? How is Deafness expressed differently in each of the arts discussed in this course? Analysis and discussion will come from readings as well as viewings of various types of Deaf arts.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Draganac-Hawk
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisite: ASLD 074
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
ASLD 077 ASL/Deaf Studies - ABCS
For this course, students will attend Pennsylvania School for the Deaf on a weekly basis where they will participate in and contribute to the school community via tutoring or other mutually agreeable activities. Students will also have formal class on a weekly basis with discussions and activities centering on reflection of community experiences through linguistic as well as cultural lenses. Additionally, drawing from the required Linguistics and other ASL/Deaf Studies coursework, students will develop an inquiry question and conduct preliminary community-based research to analyze sociolinguistic variations of ASL and Deaf cultural attitudes, behaviors, and norms. Ongoing reflections and discussions formal and informal on Deaf cultural/theoretical topics drawing from readings as well as community experiences will be integral to the course experience. LING 078, Topics in Deaf Culture and permission from the instructor, are required for this course. Anyone considering taking this course should contact the ASL Program Coordinator early in the semester prior to enrollment (Spring) to ensure adequate time to obtain clearances and appropriate placement. Prerequisite: If course requirement not met, permission of instructor required. Participation in this class requires students to have in place the mandatory clearances for working in schools before the semester starts. Students should also be in contact with the department during the advanced registration period in order to secure a placement in the community. Prerequisite: Anyone considering taking this course should contact the ASL Program Coordinator early in the semester prior to enrollment (Spring) to ensure adequate time to obtain clearances and appropriate placement. Participation in this class requires students to have in place the mandatory clearances for working in schools before the semester starts. Students should also be in contact with the department during the advanced registration period in order to secure a placement in the community. For BA Students: Advanced Language Course Taught by: Fisher
Prerequisite: ASLD 078
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Participation in this class requires students to have in place the mandatory clearances for working in schools before the semester starts. Students should also be in contact with the department during the advanced registration period in order to secure a placement in the community.

ASLD 078 Deaf Culture
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ASLD 079 Disability Rights and Oppression: Experiences within Global Deaf Communities
This course explores the linguistic and social statuses of global Deaf communities with respect to language rights and efforts toward parity with spoken language communities. We will begin by providing some background and context for understanding Deaf communities and people as both linguistic and cultural minorities as well as members of a disability group. We then explore various examples of oppression born by Deaf people throughout history and today, with an emphasis on the Milan Conference of 1880, from which several decrees mandated that sign languages be banned in all instruction of Deaf students worldwide. The impacts of said decrees were catastrophic for the linguistic and social rights of Deaf people; effects of these experiences are pernicious and long lasting. Since then, global Deaf communities have fought to gain the legal rights and social recognition that are typically afforded hearing members of their respective communities. There are some Deaf communities that have attained said rights, where others are still left far behind. We explore the lasting effects of the Milan Congress in global terms, using the United States and North American Deaf communities as a standard for comparative measurement. Application required through Penn Global: https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/pgs Do note that this course will include a module on Italian Sign Language (LIS) and will give opportunities to learn and use LIS in and amongst Italian Deaf community members while in Italy. Application required through Penn Global:https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad/pgs
Taught by: Fisher
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

ASLD 091 American Sign Language III/IV
Expanded instruction of American Sign Language (ASL) on the Intermediate I and II levels. Includes receptive and expressive readiness activities, sign vocabulary and grammar growth, fingerspelling practice and narrative skills. Topics on Deaf cultural are also included in the course readings and discussions. Increases the emphasis on more abstract and challenging conversational and narrative range.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Course not offered every year
Prerequisite: ASLD 072
Activity: Lecture
2.0 Course Units
Notes: Offered by Penn Language Center; permit from Penn Language Center required for admission.