LESS COMMONLY TAUGHT LANGUAGES (LANG)

LANG190 American Sign Language I
This course introduces students to the fundamentals of American Sign Language (ASL), the principal system of manual communication among American deaf people. Not to be confused with Signed English (to which a certain amount of comparative attention is given) or with other artificially developed systems, ASL is a conceptual language and not merely encoded or fingerspelled English. As such, while to some extent influenced by English, depending on the individual signer, it presents its own grammar and structure, involving such elements as topicalization, spatial indexing, directionality, classification, syntactic body language, etc. By the end of the semester, students should have learned between 700 and 800 conceptual signs and their use. They will also have been introduced to aspects of American deaf culture—sociology, psychology, education, theater, etc.—through a variety of readings and discussions.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-LANG
Prereq: None

LANG191 Beginning American Sign Language II
Beginning American Sign Language II will provide a continuation of the work done in LANG190. The course will cover grammatical and linguistic material in some depth, as well as teach additional vocabulary. There will also be a focus on students’ use of the language in class to improve their conversational abilities. The course will also introduce students to deaf culture and the signing community and will include ethnographic and analytical readings related to culture, linguistics, and interpretation.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-LANG
Prereq: LANG190

LANG290 American Sign Language and Current Issues
During this third semester of American Sign Language (ASL) study, students will continue to focus on language acquisition while also examining the related ethics and controversies surrounding ASL, deaf culture, and disability issues in America. Several key questions will be considered: How are advances in genetic testing impacting the deaf community? What is the cause of a recent emergence of ASL in popular culture and the huge increase in university course offerings and enrollments? What is the “least restrictive environment” according to the Americans with Disabilities Act compared to day-to-day reality? Is the deaf community a cultural-linguistic minority group or a disabled population? Are cochlear implants a miracle cure, or are they a tool that is misrepresented in the media and/or an attempt at a form of cultural genocide? Why are many parents of deaf children forced to choose a faction of the ongoing oral vs. signing debate, often made to feel guilty by the advocates of the differing methods of education? Guest lectures and discussions will be conducted in a variety of modalities, such as spoken English, ASL, or simultaneous/total communication.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-LANG
Prereq: LANG191

LANG419 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

LANG420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

LANG466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT