

FAQs for ASL 4189S:

The Intersection of American Sign Language, Deaf Culture, and the Deaf Community

What is ASL 4189S?

This is a **service-learning** course designed to increase student awareness of agencies and organizations that serve the deaf community. Students will have the opportunity to use American Sign Language with fluent users and apply their understanding of cultural norms and expectations through providing needed services and support at those organizations.

Is there a prerequisite?

Yes. Students must complete ASL 1101 before taking ASL 4189S. Completion of ASL 1103 is recommended.

How many credit hours is the course?

Three (3) semester credit hours.

When is the course offered?

During **Autumn 2021**, class will be held on **Wednesdays + Fridays from 9:35am – 10:55am**.

Service hours (**35-40 hours spread over the semester on various days/times**) will be coordinated between the community partners and each individual student.

Where will I engage in the service-learning activities?

Students will be placed in different agencies/organizations serving the deaf communities within central Ohio, no more 30 miles within the range from OSU. The type of community partners agencies/organizations may be a social service agency, a group home, nursing and/or rehabilitation facility, independent living housing, school for the deaf, and/or advocacy agency specializing in anti-violence. On-site service includes hands-on tasks involving communicating with those who use ASL whether it be providing direct service to the consumers who are deaf, deafblind, deaf-disabled, hard of hearing or late deafened or support to professionals who may be deaf or hearing

serving these deaf communities.

How will I get to the service-learning community partner site?

Students are responsible for their own transportation to the off-campus community partner. The sites are in Franklin County and a few of the community partner sites are on the COTA bus line. Students without their own car may also try to arrange a carpool with other students placed at the same community partner. Students should figure travel time into their schedule of availability for service.

How much time will I commit to service during the semester?

Students will commit to 35-40 service hours throughout the semester. *Transportation time to and from the community partner site is NOT counted toward service hours.

How flexible are the service hours?

Students' days and times of service will be determined with the community partner. However, students need to understand flexibility depends on schedule availability and/or scheduled hours may change at the last minute due to demand for client intervention, medical/court appointments or meetings outside of community site requiring additional time for travel. Constant communication with community partner is crucial to adjusting schedules and completing your hours for the 35-40 hour minimum of coursework.

What are the major themes of study?

Service Learning & Civic Engagement, Intercultural Competence, Community Accountability, and Taking Action/Implementing Change while engaged within the deaf communities.

Will I complete assignments in addition to the service activities?

Yes. These assignments require submission to Carmen, participation in class discussions, keeping track of community service hours, reflecting on service experiences, presenting at a community event, and attending class according to the syllabus, including during final exam week.

Who should I contact with additional questions?

Questions should be directed to the team instructors, Marla Berkowitz berkowitz.44@osu.edu and Kristin Wickham-Saxon wickham-saxon.1@osu.edu.

What characteristics make a successful student?

- Positive attitude.
- Respect for diversity.
- Willingness to make mistakes.
- Willingness to ask for clarification.
- Flexibility with time, schedule, and situations.
- Ability to accept criticism and direct feedback.
- Self-advocacy/willingness to request guidance or help.

What does the “S” in 4189S represent?

The “S” indicates the course has been approved by the university to have a service-learning designation.

Does this course count as a GE?

No, this course is not currently approved as a GE. However, students may contact their program to request approval.

Does this course count toward the ASL Studies minor?

Yes, this course is on the approved list for ASL Studies.

Does this course count for the Disability Studies minor?

No, this course is not on the approved list for Disability Studies. However, students may contact their program to request approval.

Do I need a teacher recommendation?

No teacher recommendation is required.

How would former ASL 4189S students describe the course?

“Eye opening!! I have learned so much about myself, the Deaf community, Deaf culture, and ASL. I am able to finally see first-hand what I have been taught in my ASL classes. As well, I have met so many amazing people thanks to this course and have improved my signing immensely. It is truly a fantastic experience.”

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"I would say that you get placed with a site for a semester, and the experience is really what you make it. You're able to approach your supervisor(s) with ideas or concerns you may have, and they'll help you work to address them. Students only need ASL 1101 to join 4189S, so even if your signing skills aren't perfect, you'll still be able to succeed in the course."

"I would describe this course as a great opportunity for anyone that is excited about using their ASL skills to give back to the deaf community. This course gives you the chance to practice your receptive and expressive skills out in the deaf community. The learning part of the course allows for you to acquire the tools needed to apply them to your service out in the community so that you can serve your site partners in ways that can bring about positive change. For example, you learn about your hearing privilege and how it can empower the deaf community, and you learn about what it means to have a service mindset. I loved this course because it gave me the opportunity to give back in a way that allowed me to learn more about deaf culture and language but also supported the deaf community. Overall, my favorite part of the experience was creating meaningful relationships with my deaf friends and experiencing a culture that is so similar but different than my own."

"I would describe this course as equal parts challenging and rewarding. I would tell them how amazing it was to get to know the staff and to be able to practice my signing skills and also make a real impact in the community. I would tell them that they should not go into it lightly as it will be a lot of hard work not only academically, but personally. They will likely face many things that will make them uncomfortable but if they can get through those moments the outcome is absolutely worth it."

"If I was to describe this course to another student, I definitely wouldn't sugar coat it. It does have its difficult moments and taking the time out of our lives to go to the sites is a commitment. However, it was probably the most rewarding class I had taken all year, if not my whole college career. The relationships I had established were amazing and my signing comfortability was dramatically enhanced. I am so grateful for my time here and would strongly encourage people looking to improve their skills and establish relationships to take this course."

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