

Intro to Deaf Culture

Social, Values, Language, & Culture

Regina Daniels
Program Director and Assistant Professor
North Central University
reginadaniels05@gmail.com

Who am I?



My Family and our generation



What is Culture?



Binds a community or group through:

Shared language

Shared experiences

Social behaviors

Community art

Traditions

Deaf vs. deaf

Cultural identity

Medical status

History of Deaf Culture

American Sign Language (ASL) started in the 1800s via Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Laurent Clerc.

Many children are born deaf due to genetic deafness, illness during pregnancy, or become deaf through illness or injury during early life.

Many of these children have hearing parents and many of these parents do not use ASL to communicate with their child.

Children who are deaf with hearing parents gain culture from interaction with Deaf community members.

- Greetings signs
- Introducing yourselves
- providing assistance if needed
- what is around you and me

Hello, how are you? I am good or great.

My name is Regina Daniels (fingerspelling the name)

How can I help you?

Where? Who? What? How?

- I will be showing you basic signs - you can introduce yourself to each other. We will review the signs and if any questions you want to know how to sign, please raise hand to let me know.

ASL is used in Deaf Culture – why?

American Sign Language is the heart of our culture and ties our community together. It is how we share our traditions, oral history, and culture.

ASL uses:

1. Facial expression
2. Handshapes
3. Palm orientation
4. Movement
5. Location
6. Body language
7. Gestures
8. Classifiers
9. Space

History of Modern Deaf Culture

Deaf Culture and the American Deaf community has its core in residential schools. These schools serve as cultural hubs for Deaf children where they are educated in core subjects (mathematics, English, science, etc.) and skill and team building activities (athletics, student government, theater, etc.).

Typically, these students go on to post-secondary institutions such as Gallaudet University and the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

Languages/ Communication



Credit to De' VIA Art

How we communicate and what we do in the Deaf Community

Deaf/Hard of Hearing (HOH) have ways to communicate with each other. We rely on visual, physical, and eye contacts.

- visual such as lights will turn on and off, hand waves, stomp the floor, or tap on the table
- Using interpreters to communicate
- physical contacts (we need to touch in order to get your attention) - this may be uncomfortable to some of you but just be aware that we do touch (on the shoulders, arms, or legs).
- When communicating with deaf and HOH people, we use interpreters but when speaking to the person (not interpreters)- look at the deaf or hoh person.

Deaf Identity

ASL and Deafness is core to an individual's identity.

Oppression

Alexander Graham Bell; Milan Conference

Oralism Movement

Modes of Communication (SEE, MCE,
etc.)

Deaf Identity Development

Interaction with Deaf community

Use of ASL as L1

Self-acceptance of Deafness

My Identity

Dr. Carolyn McCaskill's experience with Deaf Culture Shock



I was put into the white deaf school and I was afraid. That town, Talladega, Alabama, was an old town.

Any other reason?

Modern trends in Deaf awareness places emphasis on hearing students understanding their privilege as hearing people.

Some examples of Hearing Privilege are:

Understanding orders given from an officer

Hearing important information over the loudspeaker

What are some examples of Deaf Privilege?

12 REASONS TO LEARN ASL
• AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE •

- Easily communicate UNDERWATER**
You can talk when your **MOUTH is FULL**
- Speak right through a CLOSED WINDOW**
and still be understood.
- Understand and help end AUDISM**
- Talk across a CROWDED ROOM**
without yelling.
- Quietly chat at the MOVIES** without being rude.
- Learn a language that's UNIQUE VISUAL SPATIAL & GESTURAL**
- COUNT to TEN**
and HIGHER on just ONE hand
- It's a 3D language**
3D GLASSES NOT NEEDED.
- Satisfy your FOREIGN LANGUAGE requirement.**
- It will never be TOO LOUD or TOO QUIET**
to sign to someone.
- Get to know some wonderful people in the DEAF COMMUNITY**
(PROBABLY THE BEST REASON OF ALL!)

Role play activities

- We will be doing role play with the abc's, introduction, and create a dialogue with each other.

Wrap Up & Questions

Culture

History and Aspects of Deaf Culture

ASL

Deaf Identity

Why ASL is integral in the Deaf Community

Importance of accessibility

Privilege