

American Sign Language Classes



Ways to register:

www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/courses

questions@georgiacenter.uga.edu

Contact: (706) 542-3537

PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Ashia James studied American Sign Language at the American Sign Language Institute in New York, has taken ASL courses with Georgia Perimeter College, attended interpreter workshops with the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and completed the Basic Interpreter Training Program at the University of Tennessee. She has done some work as a part-time interpreter, English tutor of graduate-level deaf students, and served as an instructor of ASL in the continuing education department of New Jersey City University prior to teaching at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education. Dr. James' numerous academic achievements include an associate degree in fashion design, bachelor's degree in occupational education, a master's in teaching & training online, and a doctorate in education.

Stephanie R. Kemp is a registered nurse and an honors graduate from North Georgia College and State University. She has worked as a clinical educator for 10 years and holds three national certifications in healthcare and clinical education. Her interest in American Sign Language began with a deaf family member and continued when she was in high school, when a deaf classmate began to teach her ASL. She has taken classes through the Georgia School for the Deaf, medical interpreting classes at Athens Regional Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital, and taken online classes and self-study. She also has spent more than 5,000 hours in community service in the education and tutoring of deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind, and deaf-blind adults, children, and their families. Stephanie began medical interpreting in 2010 and teaching basic and intermediate ASL community classes in 2012. She has worked as a consultant with hospitals and other healthcare organizations for 14 years as they serve the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. She is a member of the Georgia Association of the Deaf and has been an instructor with the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education since the beginning of 2014.

Michael "Mickey" Altman has been interested in American Sign Language since 2009. He has taken ASL classes and has been an instructor of basic and intermediate ASL community classes since 2012. He also has tutored students in ASL. He recently completed a certificate as a Teacher of American Sign Language to Speakers of Other Languages (TASLSOL) from the Canadian Institute of English and has been an ASL instructor with the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education since the beginning of 2014.

Lori Fugere is originally from Johnston, Rhode Island. She is currently a full-time teacher for students who are deaf/hard of hearing and those who are visually impaired for Hall County, and has worked in special education for the past 26 years. Her experience with American Sign Language began over 30 years ago at the University of Pittsburgh and continued at Florida State University, where she graduated with a degree in special education. When she and her parents were living in Tallahassee, Florida, a man who worked with her mother was deaf, and he invited her to Deaf Club meetings. While going to Florida State, she met some interpreters



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at church who asked if she would be interested in learning to interpret at church. She agreed and has been interpreting for the Catholic Archdiocese both in Georgia and Florida for the past 27 years. Following graduation, she lived in Clearwater, Florida, twice, and both times her neighbors were deaf. She is passionate about American Sign Language and deaf culture and, in her role as an ASL teacher, wants to share her passion and love for this wonderful and unique language.

Kelvin Hester became interested in American Sign Language after becoming immersed in the Athens, Georgia, deaf community in 2009. Because of this immersion, he became proficient in the use of ASL. He also has sought to enhance his knowledge of deaf culture as well as the language by taking classes for self-development. Kelvin has worked as an insurance agent for over 19 years. Working in this field gives Kelvin the opportunity to begin relationships with and provide services to deaf individuals, and he enjoys being involved in activities that help others in the community to prepare for the future.

Jeff Graham has been involved in ASL since 1985. He studied ASL at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, and then continued with their interpreter training program as well. He was a working interpreter in the Boston area for many years. In Georgia he has worked for GACH: the Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired as their main educator, working with deaf adults teaching and tutoring literacy, GED, and general college courses, etc. Under the pen name J. Lee Graham, Jeff has written five novels.

Lisa Stevens began learning ASL as a child from her aunt and uncle who were both Deaf. When her daughter was diagnosed with hearing loss, Lisa began taking ASL classes to help with her daughter's communication as she began attending school. Lisa later enrolled in the Interpreter Training program at Georgia Perimeter College and graduated with an Associate's degree in Interpreting. After graduating, Lisa began working as a Behavior Specialist with the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf. She received her EIPA certification and began working as an interpreter part time. While working with AASD, she also taught ASL classes to parents and the community. She continued with her education and received her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership. She later completed her Master's degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Deaf Education. She is now working with Northeast Georgia RESA as a teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the high school level. She is also continuing her post-secondary education by pursuing her Specialist's degree in Special Education with a focus on Reading Instruction.

Martha Fletcher studied sign language at Floyd College in Rome, Georgia. She graduated with a certificate in interpreting for the deaf. She also studied at Michigan University and graduated with a master's degree in education. Martha has worked in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community for 30 years, training the deaf for work and teaching sign language classes in the community. She also has worked in the school system with deaf and hard-of-hearing students in high school and elementary school.

Kathryn Byrne has been interpreting for the deaf for 28 years, mostly for church functions. She loves communicating with the deaf, as well as teaching ASL to others. She has two master's degrees, and is a licensed professional counselor with a private practice in Snellville, Georgia.

