The Self-Instructional Languages Program (SILP) enables students to study important foreign languages relevant to their academic interests but not taught in regular courses at Williams. The program can field a limited number of courses per year; a Self-Instructional Languages course will be scheduled only if and when at least two students are accepted for study and a tutor/examiner have been contracted. In the past, we have offered one-year long Elementary Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, and Swahili courses. In 2022-23, American Sign Language has been added to the offerings. Students work independently with standard language textbooks and audio materials for roughly ten hours per week and attend twice-weekly group review sessions with tutors who are native speakers. Language faculty from other institutions provide the course syllabus, conduct the exams, and determine the final grades. An organizational meeting for enrolled students is held the first week of each semester.

Interested students must complete an application and have it approved before registering for a course. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

Note that like other elementary language courses, the Self-Instructional Languages courses are hyphenated, meaning no credit is given for the first semester if the second semester is not completed. Students must normally begin a course in the fall semester. It cannot be taken Pass/Fail.

A consecutive year of intermediate language study will be considered only upon petition of those students completing a full year of elementary study with the Self-Instructional Languages Program and as long as a minimum of two students are enrolled to continue their language study.

All courses adhere to the guidelines of the National Association of Self-Instructional Language Programs (NASILP).

CRSL 101 (F) American Sign Language

Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course. Introduction to the alphabet and language structure with emphasis on communicative skills. Students will receive a foundation in the language, be able to hold simple conversations, and use a range of vocabulary related to daily activities and transactions. Students must be highly motivated in self-instructional learning, and will work with an outside tutor/examiner. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

Class Format: Twice weekly review sessions
Requirements/Evaluation: Midterm and final exams
Prerequisites: Sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Self-Instructional Languages Program in April.
Enrollment Limit: 8
Enrollment Preferences: Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course; this is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study to receive credit.
Expected Class Size: 2-8
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Unit Notes: Minimum of two students, plus contracted tutor/examiner in order to schedule the course
Distributions: (D1)

CRSL 102 (S) American Sign Language

Continuation in developing communicative skills, vocabulary building, and furthering familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures and writing. Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course. Students must be highly motivated in self-instructional learning, and will work with an outside tutor/examiner. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.
Class Format: Twice weekly review sessions

Requirements/Evaluation: Midterm and final exam

Prerequisites: CRSL 101

Enrollment Limit: 8

Enrollment Preferences: Students must have completed CRSL 101.

Expected Class Size: 2-8

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: Minimum of two students, plus contracted tutor/examiner in order to schedule the course

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023

LEC Section: 01   TBA   Shaina Adams-El Guabli