Course information

This non-credit course, taught by Eileen Baker, is an introduction to American Sign Language, finger-spelling and additional sign language systems used by deaf and hard of hearing individuals and special populations through class and readings.

Students will learn vocabulary specific to a cross-section of first responder needs including but not limited to medical staff, law enforcement and fire safety in routine and emergency situations which is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Department of Justice.

This interactive class will engage students to be able to immediately apply proven communication strategies and approaches to their daily operations.

About the instructor

Eileen Baker received her Master’s Degree in Education of the Deaf from Smith College. She began her teaching career working with multi-cultural deaf children and their families at the Kendall Demonstration School at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. She has also taught in the field of deaf education from pre-school through college. She is currently an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of New Haven and previously was an Adjunct Professor in Special Education at Southern Connecticut State University. She is proficient in Spanish.

Eileen serves as an educator, consultant and expert witness to industry, education and government agencies, both public and private, which have included providing technical assistance to The National Institute of Corrections and The Federal Bureau of Prisons with expertise in issues surrounding hearing loss in a correctional environment per the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Department of Justice. Her experiences include working directly with deaf and hard of hearing inmates in addition to consulting with state, local and federal corrections agencies across the United States.

She has presented workshops on related topics nationally and internationally and has had articles published in professional literature, and developed American Sign Language for Law Enforcement & Corrections Communication and Correctional Health Care Professionals. Eileen's professional experience in addition to having deaf parents and grandparents provides a greater understanding of this disability while ensuring compliance with federal, state and local mandates specific to equal access to programs and services.

CRN# 2576 COMM 15003
Dates: Thursday, February 19 - June 04
Times: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - N006
Cost: $500
Instructor: Eileen Baker

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