

C O U R S E S Y L L A B U S

State Certification Written Exam Prep

Course Overview

This self-paced online course equips aspiring court interpreters with the knowledge, skills, and exam strategies needed to pass the written certification examination administered by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Through a structured sequence of video lectures, guided reading materials, vocabulary exercises, and a simulated final exam, students build mastery across the core competencies assessed on exam day.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the professional role and ethical responsibilities of a court interpreter
 - Apply the NCSC Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility to realistic scenarios
 - Navigate the structure and procedures of the U.S. federal and state judicial systems
 - Demonstrate mastery of legal vocabulary through sentence-completion exercises
 - Identify and correctly interpret idiomatic expressions in professional and legal contexts
 - Distinguish synonyms and antonyms in context with precision
 - Apply proven test-taking strategies to maximize written exam performance
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Module 1

Intro to Court Interpretation, Ethics, Protocol & Proceedings

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	Test Overview	Introduction to the NCSC written exam: structure, sections, scoring, and what to expect on exam day.
2	Make Your Own Flashcards	Guided activity — students create personalized flashcard sets for key legal terms and interpreter concepts.
3	What Is a Court Interpreter? (Lecture)	Video lecture covering an introduction to the professional scope and importance of court interpreters in the justice system.
4	Court Interpreter Ethics (Lecture)	Lecture on the NCSC Code of Ethics: impartiality, accuracy, confidentiality, role boundaries, and professional conduct.
5	Ethical Decisions Examples (Print & Read)	Printable case study packet featuring real-world ethical dilemmas for guided self-study and reflection.
6	Judicial System (Lecture)	Comprehensive lecture on federal and state court structure, key courtroom participants, and standard proceedings.
7	Share Your Flashcards	Collaborative peer activity: students share and review each other's flashcard sets to reinforce vocabulary retention.
8	Sentence Completion — Legal Terms Practice	Timed practice exercise applying legal vocabulary in sentence-completion format — directly mirrors the exam style.

Module 2 English Written Exam Preparation

Unit A English Written Prep Overview

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	English Exam Overview	Walk-through of the English-language sections of the NCSC written exam and scoring criteria.
2	English Written Test Overview & Sentence Completion Lecture	Lecture introducing the written test format with a focused look at sentence completion question types and answering strategies.

Unit B Sentence Completion

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	On Sentence Completion	Reading and analysis of sentence completion principles — common question patterns, traps, and elimination strategies.
2	Sentence Completion Practice	Practice set to reinforce sentence completion skills under exam-like conditions.
3	In Depth: Sentence Completion	Advanced review of complex sentence structures and nuanced vocabulary choices that appear in this exam section.

Unit C Idioms

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	In Depth: Idioms	Analysis of high-frequency idiomatic expressions, their contextual meaning, and how they appear on the exam.
2	Idioms Lecture	Video lecture covering the test section on idiomatic expressions.
3	Idioms Practice	Exercises applying idiom knowledge in sentence and short-passage contexts.
4	More Idioms!	Extended practice set with additional idiomatic expressions and contextual usage examples.

Unit D Synonyms & Antonyms

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	In Depth: Synonyms & Antonyms	Analysis of vocabulary relationships, subtle meaning differences, and register in legal and formal English.
2	Synonyms in Context Lecture	Lecture on reading synonym meaning within sentence context rather than in isolation — a key exam skill.
3	Synonyms in Context Practice	Exercises focused on identifying the best synonym based on surrounding context clues.
4	Synonyms Lecture	Video lecture covering high-frequency synonym pairs relevant to legal and professional English.
5	Synonyms Practice	Synonym-matching and multiple-choice practice set with answer key.
6	Antonyms Lecture	Lecture covering antonym pairs and vocabulary contrast relationships found in legal language.

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
7	Antonyms Practice	Timed antonym identification and sentence-based exercises with answer key.

Unit E Final Exam

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	Test-Taking Strategies Lecture	Lecture on time management, process of elimination, educated guessing, and stress-management techniques for exam day.
2	Final Exam Instructions	Review of exam logistics
3	Final Exam (Self-Paced)	Comprehensive simulated written exam covering all course content in authentic NCSC written exam format.
4	Final Exam Answer Key	

Instructor

Agustín Servin de la Mora is the president of DE LA MORA Institute of Interpretation. He was born and raised in Mexico City, Mexico, and has been a professional freelance and staff interpreter for the last 28 years. He is one of the Supervisor Raters for the National Center for State Courts and has been a lead rater for the federal and consortium oral exams for court interpreters. He was the lead interpreter for the Ninth Judicial Circuit for over a decade, served as member of the Project Advisory Committee responsible for the creation of the National Standards for Healthcare Interpreter Training Programs for the NCIHC. He was a member of the Florida Court Interpreter Certification Board and a voting member of the Technical Committee of the National Consortium for Interpreter Certification. He is a state and federally certified court interpreter, as well as a certified medical interpreter. He has been a consultant for the Administrative Offices of the State Courts, conducting orientation seminars and advanced skills workshops for interpreters in at least 15 states. He has been featured as a speaker and presenter in several national conventions, including those of NAJIT, ATA, IMIA, and NASCA.