

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

40 Hours Court Interpreter Training

Course Overview

This 40-hour training course builds the core interpreting skills required for professional court work. Students work through the three modes of court interpretation — consecutive, sight translation, and simultaneous — alongside memory and notation exercises designed to strengthen real-time performance. Each module combines lectures, audio exercises, scripts with scoring units, and structured practice sessions. The course closes with a 21-day reinforcement program to help students consolidate and maintain what they've learned.

Learning Objectives

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

- Use memory and notation techniques to support accurate consecutive interpretation
- Interpret consecutive passages of increasing length and complexity
- Sight translate documents smoothly and accurately
- Interpret simultaneously while maintaining accuracy and composure
- Identify and use legal language correctly in all three modes
- Self-evaluate using scoring units and structured feedback tools
- Complete a 21-day practice program to reinforce all three interpreting modes

Module 1

Weightlifting

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	Appendix	Reference materials and terminology used throughout the course.
2	Weightlifting Lecture	Introduces memory-building and notation strategies for consecutive interpretation. Students learn why these skills matter and how to develop them through practice.

Module 2

Consecutive Interpretation

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	Consecutive 1	First practice session. Students interpret short segments and begin applying the notation techniques introduced in Module 1.
2	Consecutive 101 Audio — Language Neutral	Audio exercise for practice in any language pair. Students listen and interpret consecutive passages.
3	Consecutive 101 Audio — Spanish	Same exercise as above in Spanish. Students practice consecutive interpretation with Spanish-language source material.
4	Consecutive 2	Second practice session. Passages increase in length and complexity.
5	Consecutive 3	Third practice session with continued progression in difficulty.
6	Consecutive 101 Script — Language Neutral	Written script with scoring units for the language-neutral audio exercise. Students use this to self-evaluate their interpretation.
7	Consecutive 101 Script — Spanish	Written script with scoring units for the Spanish audio exercise.
8	Consecutive 4	Fourth practice session.
9	Consecutive 5	Fifth practice session.
10	Consecutive 6	Sixth practice session.
11	Consecutive 7	Seventh practice session.
12	Consecutive 8	Eighth practice session.
13	Consecutive 9	Ninth practice session.
14	Consecutive 10	Tenth and final consecutive practice session.
15	Exercise 3 — Do You Speak Legalese?	Students test their knowledge of legal terminology and identify gaps in vocabulary.
16	Exercise 3 — Do You Speak Legalese? Audio Files	Audio component for the Legalese exercise.
17	Exercise 3 Script	Written script and answer key for the Legalese exercise.

Module 3

Sight Translation

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	Sight Lecture	Introduction to sight translation: what it is, when it is used in court, and how to approach a document before interpreting it.
2	Sight 101	First sight translation exercise. Students translate a short document orally.
3	Sight 101 Exercise	Structured practice activity accompanying the Sight 101 document.
4	Sight Lecture 2	Continues instruction on sight translation technique, focusing on pacing and accuracy.
5	Sight Lecture 3	Covers strategies for handling unfamiliar vocabulary and complex sentence structure during sight translation.
6	Sight 101 with Scoring Units	The Sight 101 document with scoring units so students can evaluate their performance against benchmarks.
7	Sight Lecture 4	Instruction on register, tone, and maintaining the meaning of legal documents during translation.
8	Sight Lecture 5	Additional technique work with a focus on fluency and delivery.
9	Sight 101 Read-Through	Students read through the Sight 101 document to prepare for timed interpretation practice.
10	Sight Lecture 6	Continues fluency and delivery instruction.
11	Sight 101 Chunking	Students practice chunking — breaking a document into meaningful segments — to improve pacing and comprehension.
12	Sight Lecture 7	Lecture on handling numbers, dates, and proper names during sight translation.
13	Sight Lecture 8	Final lecture in the sight translation sequence. Covers review and exam-day application.
14	Sight 101 Finale	Final practice session using the Sight 101 document. Students apply all techniques covered in the module.
15	Sight Translation 101	Capstone sight translation exercise bringing together all skills from the module.

Module 4

Simultaneous Interpretation

#	Lesson	What You'll Do
1	Simul 1	First simultaneous interpretation exercise. Students begin interpreting short passages in real time.
2	Simultaneous 101 Audio	Audio source material for Simultaneous 101. Students interpret the recording as it plays.
3	Simul 2	Second practice session with increased passage length.
4	Simul 3	Third practice session.
5	Simultaneous 101 Script	Written script for the Simultaneous 101 audio. Students compare their output against the source and scoring units.
6	Simul 4	Fourth practice session.
7	Simul 5	Fifth practice session.
8	Simul 6	Sixth and final simultaneous practice session.
9	21-Day Program	A structured 21-day practice schedule that reinforces all three interpreting modes. Students follow daily exercises to build and maintain their skills after completing the main course content.
10	21-Day Program Transcript	Written transcript of the 21-day program audio content.
11	21-Day Program PDF	Printable PDF version of the 21-day program for offline use.
12	21-Day Program PDF Transcript	Printable transcript of all 21-day program audio, formatted for annotation and self-study.

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.