

C O U R S E   S Y L L A B U S

# Texas Court Interpreter Orientation

---

## Course Overview

This orientation introduces aspiring court interpreters to everything they need to know before stepping into a Texas courtroom. Students will learn what the job requires, how the Texas legal system works, what certification involves, and what to expect on both the oral and written exams. The course covers all three modes of interpretation — consecutive, sight translation, and simultaneous — along with ethics, courtroom protocol, notetaking, and the professional resources available to working interpreters.

## Learning Objectives

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

- Describe the role of a court interpreter and the skills the job requires
  - Explain the three modes of interpretation and when each is used in court
  - Navigate a courtroom, identify key participants, and understand civil and criminal case processes
  - Apply the ten NCSC ethical canons for court interpreters
  - Use notetaking techniques to support consecutive interpretation
  - Identify common pitfalls in consecutive interpreting and how to avoid them
  - Perform sight translation and apply shadowing practice for simultaneous interpreting
  - Access professional resources including dictionaries, glossaries, and associations
  - Understand the structure, scoring, and requirements of the Texas oral certification exam
-

## Module 1

## The Court Interpreter's Role, Modes &amp; Ethics

#	Lesson	Topics Covered
1	<b>Welcome</b>	Introduction to the course, its goals, and how to navigate the material.
2	<b>Class 1 — Intro to Court Interpreting</b>	What court interpreting is, what the job involves day to day, and the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to work as a court interpreter.
3	<b>Class 2 — Modes, Assignments &amp; the Courtroom</b>	The three modes of interpretation (consecutive, sight, simultaneous), how to prepare for and conduct an assignment, the layout of a courtroom and the role of each participant, and an overview of the civil and criminal case processes.
4	<b>Class 3 — Ethics</b>	The ten ethical canons for court interpreters as established by the NCSC, with discussion of how each applies in real courtroom situations.
5	<b>Module 1 Quiz</b>	Knowledge check covering the role of a court interpreter, the three modes, courtroom participants, case processes, and the NCSC ethical canons.

## Module 2

## Consecutive Interpretation &amp; Professional Resources

#	Lesson	Topics Covered
1	<b>Class 1 — Consecutive Interpreting</b>	How consecutive interpretation works, notetaking skills and strategies, and the most common pitfalls interpreters encounter in consecutive mode and how to handle them.
2	<b>Class 2 — Resources for Interpreters</b>	Professional resources available to court interpreters, including legal dictionaries and glossaries, professional associations, and educational institutions that support interpreter training and development.
3	<b>Module 2 Quiz</b>	Knowledge check covering consecutive interpretation technique, notetaking, common pitfalls, and professional resources.

## Module 3

## Sight Translation, Simultaneous &amp; Certification

#	Lesson	Topics Covered
1	<b>Class 1 — Sight Translation &amp; Simultaneous Interpreting</b>	What sight translation involves and the skills it requires, how simultaneous interpretation works, and how to use shadowing practice to build and improve simultaneous interpreting ability.
2	<b>Class 2 — Texas Oral Certification Exam</b>	The structure, scoring, and content of the Texas oral certification exam, including what to expect on exam day and how performance is evaluated.
3	<b>Module 3 Quiz</b>	Knowledge check covering sight translation, simultaneous interpreting, shadowing practice, and the Texas oral certification exam.
4	<b>Feedback Survey</b>	Students share feedback on the course to help improve future offerings.

**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.