

Morse Code: The Art of Telegraphy Syllabus

Friday 10:45 AM to 12:15 PM

UNLV MAB2

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Course Description

The class focuses on mastering both the alphabet and numerals in Morse code, developing fundamental practice and building muscle memory. It emphasizes instant character and word recognition, as well as basic conversational skills and practical application.

Week	Topic	Notes
Week 1	First characters, K, M, R	
Week 2	Expanding Character Set & Rhythm, New Characters: S, U, A	
Week 3	More Characters & Word Recognition, New Characters: P, T, L	
Week 4	Numbers Begin, New Characters: 1, 5, W, I, O (<i>letter "oh", not zero</i>)	
Week 5	The Alphabet Continues and we add Zero New Characters: N, J, E, Ø (<i>Zero</i>)	
Week 6	Special Characters & Operating Flow, New Characters: D, B, F, ?, /	
Week 7	More Characters & Practical Copying, New Characters: G, H, V, 9	
Week 8	Increasing Fluency, New Characters: X, Y, Q, Z, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8	
Week 9	On-Air Skills & Assessment, Common Q-codes (QTH, QRS, QSL, QRN, etc.).	
Week 10	Final Practice / Certification test	

Extended Abstract

This Morse Code course is designed around proven, research-backed methods for acquiring Morse code effectively and confidently. The sequence in which new characters and skills are introduced follows principles used by experienced instructors worldwide, including the Koch method, Farnsworth spacing, and rhythm-based auditory learning.

The course begins with a small set of high-contrast characters whose sound patterns are distinctly different. This provides early success and helps students avoid the common tendency to count dots and dashes visually. Each week introduces new characters that complement those already learned, reinforcing rhythm recognition while preventing overload. Easily confused characters are intentionally delayed until students have internalized the fundamentals of sound-based decoding.

Numbers and punctuation are also introduced gradually and only after learners can confidently handle the varied rhythm lengths of letters. This staggered approach builds resilience and ensures new material can be absorbed without sacrificing accuracy. Likewise, the course gradually reduces Farnsworth spacing—wide spacing between characters—so that learners become comfortable with higher effective speeds while maintaining clarity.

The progression from isolated characters to words, sentences, and finally conversational Morse reflects how real-world operators use the code. Head copy—the ability to understand by sound rather than writing everything down—is encouraged early and developed steadily. By the end of the course, students will be prepared not only to recognize and send the full character set but also to participate in practical on-air exchanges.

This structured learning path builds confidence, prevents common plateaus, and creates a solid foundation for continued skill development.