INSTRUCTOR: H. S. Venkatagiri, Ph. D. 
OFFICE HOURS: T–W–Th 11 AM – 12 Noon
3248 Pearson Hall 
By appointment at other times.
Email: gir@iastate.edu 
Telephone: 294 – 6476 (You may leave a voice mail message)

DESCRIPTION: The course is designed to impart basic skills in the use and understanding of Signed English.

OBJECTIVES: After the successful completion of this course, you will be:
1. Familiar with the American English Manual Alphabet.
2. Familiar with the commonly used signs of the American Sign Language (ASL).
3. Able to communicate through finger spelling, Signed English and Signed Pidgin English.
5. Acquainted with the types, causes, and consequences of hearing impairment and with deaf culture.
6. Able to explain the differences between manually coded English (MCE), Signed Pidgin English (SPE) and ASL.

Web Site: Log on to WebCT with your University user name and password and you will find a link to our course web site. A reading list for the final examination is available on the web site. A set of overheads used in class lectures is also available there. Your course grade is posted to the web site under “Grade Book.” Web site also contains practice materials, the final examination reading list, a video dictionary, and many useful external links. Visit it often.

GRADING: Grading is on a percentage basis as follows: (Total points for the course: 260)
- A = 93 - 100%
- A- = 90 - 92
- B+ = 87 - 89
- B = 84 - 86
- B- = 81 - 83
- C+ = 78 - 80
- C = 75 - 77
- C- = 72 - 74
- D+ = 69 - 71
- D = 66 - 68
- D- = 63 - 65

TESTS: Due to the unusual nature of the tests given in this class, permission to make up tests will be given only for valid and documented educational, medical, or family reasons. There will be a penalty of 10 points for make-up tests without adequate documentation and prior arrangement. Bring a clean sheet of paper with no "frizzies" (tattered edges) to each quiz.

TEST FORMAT: In receptive tests, the instructor will sign sentences. Each sentence will be signed twice. You will write them down in English. Each quiz will have 10 sentences (3 points per sentence). In expressive signing tests, you will sign sentences given by the instructor. On either type of test, if you miss or misplace one word, you will receive two points; if you miss or misplace two words, you will receive one point; if you miss or misplace three or more words, you will receive no points for that sentence. Expressive signing is by individual appointment. You must sign up during the week of November 15 for this test. Once signed up, no changes are allowed except in the most unusual circumstances (10 points penalty for missed appointments). Expressive test will be in my office located in 3248 Pearson Hall. The written test will consist of a set of multiple-choice questions.

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance and participation are essential for success in this course. Throughout the semester, there will be several unannounced in-class signing practice activities. Each practice session is worth two EXTRA CREDIT points. You should always have a clean sheet of paper with no "frizzies" (tattered edges) available for these unannounced in-class exercises. Note that you cannot make up these practice sessions later. If you miss a session, for whatever reason, you miss the points for that session (no exceptions).

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Please refrain from reading newspapers and other reading materials or making private conversations during class lectures. You are, of course, encouraged to ask questions and make public comments intended for the entire class.
DISABILITY STATEMENT: If you have a disability that requires special arrangements, please bring a SAAR form from the Disability Resources Office (294-7220; 1076 Student Services Building) specifying the accommodation(s) you will need.

COURSE CALENDAR: The course calendar provided below is tentative and subject change (with notice!). The number of and the dates for quizzes are also tentative and may change with adequate notice.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

August
23  Course Description and Calendar; Tests and Grading; Introduction; Common Hand Shapes
25  Manual Alphabet and Finger Spelling
30  Signing Conventions

September
1   Grammar signs
6   Greeting
8   Emergency  (Quiz #1; 30 Points; Receptive Signing)
13, 15  Family; Hearing Loss: Types, Causes, Consequences, and Treatment
20  Feelings
22  People
27  Action   (Quiz #2; 30 Points; Receptive Signing)
29  Places ; Sound and Fury (Documentary introducing Deaf culture in 5 parts shown during five class periods)

October
4   Direction;
6   Time
11  Attributes (Quiz #3; 30 Points; Receptive Signing)
13  Quantity; Features of Signed Pidgin English (SPE)
18  Money; Travel
20  Things
25, 27  Food

November
1,3  Health (Quiz #4; 30 Points; Receptive Signing)
8   American Sign Language (ASL) Sentence Structure
10  Education
15  Clothing (Quiz #5; 30 Points; Receptive Signing)
17  Recreation (Sign-up for expressive signing test)

😊 Thanksgiving Recess 😊

29  Nature (Expressive signing test by appointment begins; 30 points)

December
1   Religion
6   History of Manual Communication
8   Review and Conclusion (Course evaluation; Bring a #2 pencil; Your suggestions and comments are valued!).
14  Final Written Examination (80 points; Bring a #2 pencil to this test). Tentative; 9:45 – 11:45 AM; 80 multiple-choice questions. The full list of final examination reading materials will be posted to the course web site by October 27. The Final Exam is held in the same class room in which we regularly meet.

Recommended Dictionaries
(Note: There are also many good books on signing and ASL available in libraries and book stores)


Note: These dictionaries contain illustrations as well as descriptions for signs. Illustrations are useful in visualizing signs. These two dictionaries are highly recommended.

Videotapes available at the Parks Library ((Media Center in the basement)

- The Signed English Starter Videotape (Vide 002 163);
- Say It By Signing (Vide 002 604);
- Sign Language for All Ages (Vide 000 600)

Note: You are not required to view these videotapes; however, if you are looking to gain additional knowledge and skill in the use and understanding of signing, you are strongly encouraged to make use of these audiovisual materials).