

**DEPARTMENT: EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**  
**COURSE PREFIX: EDU      COURSE NUMBER: 250      CREDIT HOURS: 1**

**I. TITLE:** Signed English I

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):**

This course is designed for students who want to acquire skills to communicate manually with babies, preschoolers, children, and others with special needs. This introductory course includes the manual alphabet and development of basic skills in Signed English (SE), and Baby Signs®. Field experiences are required.

**Prerequisite:** none

**III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students will be able to

- A. demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of Signed English and Baby Signs®;
- B. develop an understanding of the advantages of manual communication with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and children with special needs;
- C. demonstrate a core vocabulary (expressive and receptive) of approximately 200 signs and have a knowledge of the manual alphabet; and
- D. demonstrate skill in the use of signed vocabulary and using verbal communication with manual communication.

**IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:**

- A. Manual alphabet and Signed English vocabulary
- B. Expressive and receptive skills of Signed English and Baby Signs®
- C. History of Signed English and Baby Signs®
- D. Principles of Signed English and Baby Signs®

**V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Students will acquire basic knowledge of Signed English and Baby Signs® through reading assignments, lecture, and discussion. Skills will be developed through class activities and small group activities. Students will be responsible for a short research project and a short signed presentation. There will be role-play to integrate signing with small children to prepare students for field experience.

**VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:**

Field experiences working with children with Baby Signs® are required. Students will attend and assist with a Sign, Say, and Play® class or work with area daycare/childcare centers.

**VII. TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:**

- A. A minimum of three children's books from Gallaudet University in Signed English will be required each semester (e.g. *Little Red Riding Hood*).  
<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=signed+english+books+galludet&qpv=signed+english+books+galludet&FORM=IGRE>
- B. Various websites to improve signing skills and that have information about Signed English. These will be updated on the syllabus each semester.

- C. DVDs of children's signed stories will be used in class and/or on reserve in the Curriculum Materials Library.
- D. Baby Signs® Basic Programs: Parent Workshop DVD and Sign, Say, and Play® materials

**VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Grades will be based upon class activities including interaction using signs and group presentations, homework, field experience, and quizzes and exams.

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

D = 60 - 69

E = 59 or below

**IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current MSU *Bulletin*.

**X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

**Violations of Academic Honesty include:**

**Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

**Fabrication and Falsification** - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

**Multiple Submission** - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

**Plagiarism** - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the

course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

**If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.**

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

#### **XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:**

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or other provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).