



The University of Western Ontario
FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 2113
Algonquian Language & Culture
Fall/Winter 2023/2024

Tuesdays, 6:30pm - 8:30pm; Thursday, 6:30pm – 7:30pm, SSC3108

Instructor: Mario Wassaykeesic

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5:00 – 6:00pm

First Nations Studies, Office: *SSC 3108*

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Course Description

This course follows the *Anishinaabe* way of learning. Students will observe, listen, reflect and also participate in various activities using the basic Ojibwe language. Students' participation will be encouraged, as the Ojibwe Language activities will employ auditory, visual and/or kinesthetic styles.

Students will be given a brief history lessons of the Ojibwe-*Anishinaabe*; the basic language structure; its vocabulary; its worldview; basic cultural protocols; storytelling; total physical response activities; appreciating the philosophy of mino-bimaadiziwin (good life), and native contemporary issues.

Students will use the basic forms of the *Anishinaabe* language along with examining relationships of the Ojibwe language to various culturally relevant concepts. Students are allowed to bring their personal recording devices. Western University and *Anishinaabe* protocols will be respected and will be followed by everyone during all classes.

***Anishinaabe* Teaching Philosophy:**

Each person has their own learning style. There are various levels of educational achievements and personal knowledge that people have and that needs to be taken into consideration. People come from different backgrounds; the key is to be flexible and mindful of the learning process and varying learning styles.

The *Anishinaabe* learning of observing, feeling, knowing and participating will be utilized throughout the duration of this course. Lessons will be based on the needs of the students as all educational processes are basically learner-centered. This type of educational philosophy is referred to as andragogy. Students will become aware of a concept; they will struggle with their feelings about it; will build and establish a knowledge base and will act on or behave in a manner which is consistent with their learning.

Prerequisite(s)

First Nations Studies 1020E or Anthropology 1025F/G or the former 020E

Learning Outcomes

Students will experience an Ojibwe worldview through auditory, visual and/or kinesthetic from the Ojibwe language, often spoken throughout the course.

Students will engage in the Ojibwe language activities, through listening, speaking, interactive practice, and also in written form.

Students will develop an appreciation and understanding of Ojibwe language, as well as cultural teachings presented throughout the course.

Required Text(s)

Ningewance, Patricia. **Talking Gookum's Language.**

Benton-Banai, Edward. **The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway.** (*optional)

Method of Evaluation

All assignments & presentation will involve the use of the Ojibwe language

Three Presentations (20%)	60%
Final Exam / Project	20%
Assignments	20%

Evaluation Breakdown

Presentation # 1 (20%) November 26th and November 28th, 2024

Introduction:

Students will be encouraged to prepare a five-minute presentation, or monologue, on a self-introduction. Utilizing lessons from One - Five, students will have a creative opportunity and freedom to express themselves through their vocal Ojibwe skills, addressing his/her fellow class peers of their name(s), from whence they're from, their family relations or fellow student peers, weather terms, etc.

- Students ARE **GIVEN UP TO FIVE MINUTES**; students will not be penalized for not using the full FIVE MINUTES.

Presentation # 2 (20%) February 11th & February 13th, 2025

What I Did:

Students will be encouraged to prepare a five-minute presentation, or monologue, on a day's event. Utilizing lessons learned from the *Talking Gookum's Language* textbook, students will be encouraged to use their creative abilities in sharing a little short story about themselves; what was involved; who was involved; what happened; how did it happen; etc.

With this presentation, students will be demonstrating PAST-TENSE markers.

Presentation # 3 (20%) March 11th & March 13th, 2025

Where I'd Travel to:

Students will prepare a five-minute monologue on a presentation on where they would like to go; focusing on all the lessons (from one to ten(?)) covered from the *Talking Gookom's Language* textbook, this presentation will be focused on FUTURE-TENSE markers: where they would/could enjoy seeing themselves going to.

Students can have freedom to browse through the *Talking Gookom's Language* textbook for different VERBS, TRANSITIVE VERBS along with PREFIXes and SUFFIXes to enhance their sentence structures.

Assignments (20%) ten in total

Students will be asked to translate a few Ojibwe sentences into English, which are divided into TWO PARTS: In PART A, student will show the different parts of the sentences, including particles, prefix/suffix, time marker, conjugation, plurals, negative markers, question, verb or transitive verb, nouns.

And, in PART B: students will be translate the OJIBWE sentence/question/phrase into ENGLISH.

Final Project (20%): April 1st & April 3rd, 2025

-or-

Final Exam (20%): April 2025

How To Contact Me

Email: mwassayk@uwo.ca

Office: SSC 3108, Tuesdays; Office Hours: 5:00 – 6:00pm

How to get important information

Important Policies

You must follow all assignment instructions and codes of the university handbook

(<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>).

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class: (“clickers”, if used)

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

2024 / 2025 Course Schedule:

Thursday, September 5th, 2024
Lesson 1: Learning the Sounds

Tuesday, September 10th, 2024
Thursday, September 12th, 2024
Lesson 1: Learning the Sounds

Tuesday, September 17th, 2024
Thursday, September 19th, 2024
Lesson 1: Learning the Sounds
Assignment #1

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024
Thursday, September 26th, 2024
Lesson 2: Playing Cards

Tuesday, October 1st, 2024
Thursday, October 3rd, 2024
Lesson 2: Playing Cards
Assignment #2

Tuesday, October 8th, 2024
Thursday, October 10th, 2024
Lesson 3: Being Weathered In

Tuesday, October 15th, 2024
Thursday, October 17th, 2024
READING WEEK

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024
Thursday, October 20th, 2024
Lesson 3: Being Weathered In
Assignment #3

Tuesday, October 29th, 2024
Thursday, October 31st, 2024
Lesson 4: In the Classroom

Tuesday, November 5th, 2024
Thursday, November 7th, 2024
Lesson 4: In the Classroom
Assignment #4

Tuesday, November 12th, 2024
Thursday, November 14th, 2024
Lesson 5: Friends

Tuesday, November 19th, 2024
Thursday, November 21st, 2024
Lesson 5: Friends
Assignment #5

Tuesday, November 26th, 2024
Presentation # 1 (20%)
Thursday, November 28th, 2024
Presentation # 1 (20%)

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024
Review Lesson 1 - 5
Thursday, December 5th, 2024
Review Lesson 1 - 5

Tuesday, January 7th, 2025
Thursday, January 9th, 2025
Lesson 1 - 5 Revisit

Tuesday, January 14th, 2025
Thursday, January 16th, 2025
Lesson 6: At Home
Assignment #6

Tuesday, January 21st, 2025
Thursday, January 23rd, 2025
Lesson 6: At Home

Tuesday, January 28th, 2025
Thursday, January 30th, 2025
Lesson 7: Visiting Gookom
Assignment #7

Tuesday, February 4th, 2025
Thursday, February 6th, 2025
Lesson 7: Visiting Gookom

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025
Presentation #2 (20%)
Thursday, February 13th, 2025
Presentation #2 (20%)

Tuesday, February 18th, 2025
Thursday, February 20th, 2025
READING WEEK

Tuesday, February 25th, 2025
Thursday, February 27th, 2025
Lesson 8: On the Phone
Assignment #8

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025
Thursday, March 6th, 2025
Lesson 8: On the Phone

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025
Presentation #3 (20%)
Thursday, March 13th, 2025
Presentation #3 (20%)

Tuesday, March 18th, 2025
Thursday, March 20th, 2025
Lesson 9: Moving Day
Assignment #9

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025
Thursday, March 27th, 2025
Lesson 9: Moving Day
Assignment #10

Tuesday, April 1st, 2025
Final Project / Exam (20%)
Thursday, April 3rd, 2025
Final Exam / Project (20%)