



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 2113**  
**Algonquian Language & Culture**  
**Fall/Winter 2024/2025**

**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 26<sup>th</sup> and November 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> & February 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 Gookom'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 11<sup>th</sup> & March 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> & April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

-or-

**Final Exam (20%):** April 2025

**How To Contact Me**

**Email:** [mwassayk@uwo.ca](mailto: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](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](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](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](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/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

## 2024 / 2025 Course Schedule:

**Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 1: Learning the Sounds

**Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 1: Learning the Sounds

**Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 1: Learning the Sounds  
*Assignment #1*

**Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 2: Playing Cards

**Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 2: Playing Cards  
*Assignment #2*

**Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 3: Being Weathered In

**Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**READING WEEK**

**Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 3: Being Weathered In  
*Assignment #3*

**Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 4: In the Classroom

**Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 4: In the Classroom  
*Assignment #4*

**Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 5: Friends

**Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
Lesson 5: Friends  
*Assignment #5*

**Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Presentation # 1 (20%)**  
**Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Presentation # 1 (20%)**

**Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**  
Review Lesson 1 - 5  
**Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
Review Lesson 1 - 5

**Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Lesson 1 - 5 Revisit**

**Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
Lesson 6: At Home  
*Assignment #6*

**Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**  
Lesson 6: At Home

**Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
Lesson 7: Visiting Gookom  
*Assignment #7*

**Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
Lesson 7: Visiting Gookom

**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Presentation #2 (20%)**  
**Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Presentation #2 (20%)**

**Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**READING WEEK**

**Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
Lesson 8: On the Phone  
*Assignment #8*

**Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
Lesson 8: On the Phone

**Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Presentation #3 (20%)**  
**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Presentation #3 (20%)**

**Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
Lesson 9: Moving Day  
*Assignment #9*

**Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
Lesson 9: Moving Day  
*Assignment #10*

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