Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO/IS 2253A-200: Endangered Languages and Language Revitalization

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2025

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Tania Granadillo

Method of delivery: blended

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking the Academic Calendar.

Course Description:

In this class we will explore a current crisis that receives very little attention: the loss of linguistic diversity. This course focuses on endangered languages and the local and global factors affecting language vitality and reclamation. We will begin by examining what is meant by language endangerment and its consequences, followed by an examination of the various responses to this situation. We will address these issues from an anthropological and linguistic lens and examine cases all over the world. Practical strategies for sustaining and reviving languages, including language documentation and revitalization, will be addressed with examples coming from various areas of the world and special focus on Indigenous languages of the Americas. Each student will have the opportunity to research a particular language (no duplicates allowed!) of a particular location of their choosing throughout the term and apply the knowledge learned to their particular case.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

Thomason, Sarah G. (2015) Endangered Languages: An introduction. Cambridge University Press. The textbook costs $58. Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.

Other required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Weekly Quiz	25%
Assignments	75%

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