The University of Western Ontario

INDIGENOUS STUDIES 2113
Algonquian Language & Culture
Fall/Winter 2023/2024
Tuesdays, 6:00pm - 8:00pm; Thursday, 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Instructor: Mario Wassaykeesic
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5:00 – 6:00pm
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Calendar Description
Students will learn the basics of Anishinaabemowin, a particular North American Aboriginal language (e.g., Ojibwe) and will examine the relationships of that language to various culturally relevant concepts.

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 method 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 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)

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%) October 17th & 19th, 2023
Introduction:
Students will prepare a five-minute presentation, or monologue, on a self-introduction. Utilizing lessons, words, students will have the creative opportunity and freedom to express themselves through their vocal Ojibwe skills, addressing his/her fellow class peers of their name, from where, relations, etc., for example.

Presentation # 2 (20%) November 28th & 30th, 2023
What I Did:
Students will 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.

Presentation # 3 (20%) February 13th & 15th, 2024
Where I’d Travel to:
Students will prepare a five-minute monologue on a presentation on where they would like to go; focusing on lessons learned from the *Talking Gookom’s Language* textbook. Where they would/could enjoy seeing themselves going to.

**Assignments** (20%): ten (10) in total @ 2%/assignment

Students will be asked to translate a few Ojibwe sentences into English, which will be PART B of the assignment; PART A will include the particles, prefix/suffix, time marker, conjugation, plurals, negative markers, question, verb or transitive verb.

**Final Project** (20%) TBA: April 2nd & 4th, 2024

**Final Exam** (20%) TBA: April 2024

**How To Contact Me**

Email: mwassayk@uwo.ca

Office: 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/](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.
2023/24 Course Schedule:

Thursday, September 7th, 2023
Introduction

Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 & Thursday, September 14th, 2023
Lesson 1: Learning the Sounds

Tuesday, September 19th, 2023
Thursday, September 21st, 2023
Lesson 2: Playing Cards / Assignment #1

Tuesday, September 26th, 2023
Thursday, September 27th, 2023
Lesson 3: Being Weathered In

Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023
Thursday, October 5th, 2023
Lesson 4: In the Classroom Assignment #2

Tuesday, October 10th, 2023
Thursday, October 12th, 2023
Lesson 1, 2, 3 & 4 Revisit

Tuesday, October 17th, 2023
Thursday, October 19th, 2023
Presentation #1 (20%)
Guests: Wes Whetung / Leona Stevens

Tuesday, October 24th, 2023
Thursday, October 26th, 2023
Lesson 5: Friends Assignment #3

Tuesday, October 31st, 2023
Thursday, November 2nd, 2023
READING WEEK

Tuesday, November 7th, 2023
Thursday, November 9th, 2023
Lesson 6: At Home

Tuesday, November 14th, 2023
Thursday, November 16th, 2023
Lesson 7: Visiting Gookom Assignment #4

Tuesday, November 21st, 2023
Thursday, November 23rd, 2023
Lesson 8, On the Phone

Tuesday, November 28th, 2023
Thursday, November 30th, 2023
Presentation #2 (20%)
Assignment #5

Tuesday, December 5th, 2023
Thursday, December 7th, 2023
Lessons 1-8 Revisit

Tuesday, January 9th, 2024
Thursday, January 11th, 2024
Lesson 1-8, Revisited

Tuesday, January 16th, 2024
Thursday, January 18th, 2024
Lesson 8: On the Phone
Assignment #6

Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024
Thursday, January 25th, 2024
Lesson 9: Moving Day

Tuesday, January 30th, 2024
Thursday, February 1st, 2024
Lesson 10: Washing Clothes
Assignment #7

Tuesday, February 6th, 2024
Thursday, February 8th, 2024
Lesson 1 – 10, Review

Tuesday, February 13th, 2024
Thursday, February 15th, 2024
Presentation #3 (20%)

Tuesday, February 20th, 2024
Thursday, February 22nd, 2024
READING WEEK

Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

Thursday, February 29th, 2024
Review 1 - 10

Tuesday, March 5th, 2024
Thursday, March 7th, 2024
Lesson 11: Shopping
Assignment #8

Tuesday, March 12th, 2024
Thursday, March 14th, 2024
Lesson 12: Doing Homework
Assignment #9

Tuesday, March 19th, 2024
Thursday, March 21st, 2024
Lesson 13: At the Hospital
Assignment #10

Tuesday, March 26th, 2024
Review: 1 – 13 Lesson

Thursday, March 28th, 2024
Final Project (20%)

Tuesday, April 4th, 2023
Final Project (20%)

Thursday, April 6th, 2023
Final Thoughts