



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)

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%) 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/>).

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.

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