

Indigenous Studies 2104
Tsi Karhakta: "Edge of the Woods"

Introductory Mohawk Language

Fall / Winter 2019-2020

Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 & Thursdays 1:30-3:30

SSC-3108

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Course Description:

Tsi Karhakta "Edge of the Woods"

Here you will have the opportunity to enter into the Iroquoian World by experiencing their traditions and cultural philosophy through the medium of their own language. You are embarking on a journey of cultural understanding which will change how you view an Indigenous Culture and its traditions. Here is the beginning of your journey.

You have travelled a great way and now you come to the edge of the woodlands and before you are expansive open lands of agricultural produce surrounding a distant village. Here is **Tsi Karhakta**, at the "**Edge of the Woods**" where you would perform a ceremony from older times used to introduce a visitor before approaching a village. Here you light a fire to produce smoke in gain the attention of those in the village, and to then call out "Kon-weh, kon-weh". This would introduce you a visitor (i.e. student) to the village, the centre of language and culture of the people within, in this case the people within are Mohawk, as called by the English, or better yet **Kanyen'kehàka** as they call themselves "*People of the Flint*". From this point of entry you begin your introduction to the language of the people, **Kanyen'keha**, and the inherent culture it provides its speakers.

This introductory course will be of interest to students in any program on campus who are new to the Mohawk language and are interested in learning about Indigenous Culture and traditions through language acquisition, to those students who see the Mohawk language as an important part of their heritage, and also to those who wish to learn about the correlation between language and culture.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this part of the journey the traveller (i.e., you the student) will be able to use the Mohawk language to:

introduce yourself to others, describe yourself and those around you;

talk about and describe the world of which you are a part;

describe and refer to the time when something occurs;

recognize, explain, and appreciate some Indigenous (Iroquoian – Mohawk) traditions and cultural experiences;

see the world from a different perspective by relying on your experiences during this part of the trip.

Attendance and Participation

Active participation in a course like this is very important. Student involvement in group discussions and language practice sessions can enhance your learning experience. The more you use the language, the easier it becomes to use it. It can also improve your pronunciation and language skills acquisition.

Regular attendance is important to the class dynamic and your success in this class. Missing one class, especially the two-hour session, can very quickly put you far behind. Arriving late, unless you have a valid reason or have previously informed the instructor of such, can be disruptive to the class. The instructor takes regular attendance and arriving on time reflects a desire to learn the language and as respect for the course, the other students and the Professor. Remember, you have chosen to attend this course and it is up to you to maintain good attendance and participation.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines

In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

Students are expected to act in a timely manner when seeking and arranging accommodations. A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline.

Policy on Accommodation for Illness:

(https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf).

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

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class

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 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:

https://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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

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:

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 (https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Method of Evaluation:

Further details such as content, marking criteria, and deadlines will be provided as each assignment is introduced in class. The student will be given ample preparation time to ensure that appropriate language and skills are used. [and will be allowed to use visuals as aids in their presentation.] **Is this last bit meant to go with one of the presentations below? Seems out of place here**

Weekly Vocabulary Assessment: 15%

The student will be provided with a weekly opportunity to assess their vocabulary acquisition through twenty short in-class quizzes using oral and written formats.

Language Skills Tests: 15%

The student will also be provided with the opportunity to assess their language usage skills based upon text (reading) materials provided for the course and through oral language use and comprehension such as short class presentations in the language. For the presentations you will be provided ample time to prepare and practice.

Fall Term Language Project: 20%

The student will choose vocabulary indicating some description (i.e. happy, sad, well, sick, etc...) and proceed to manipulate the language to show how it applies to different individuals, various numbers of individuals, and descriptions of individuals. Upon the completion of this aspect of the assignment the student will then produce an audio version of their work.

Winter Term Language Project: 20%

The student will choose an assigned number of descriptions and apply the various indicators to denote the different times they would occur (i.e. ...is..., ...was..., ...will be..., ...would be...). Once this aspect of the project is completed the student will then produce an audio version to accompany their work.

Culture and Tradition Appreciation: 15%

The student will be able to express their awareness and appreciation of the cultural practices and traditions they have learned about during this course through the use of either individual quizzes throughout the class time and by periodic written presentations detailing what they have learned about a particular cultural topic.

Attendance and Participation: 15%

How will participation be assessed? Based on participation in small group and class activities?

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Final Exam for this course as the total evaluation will be based on the Language skill and vocabulary testing, culture and tradition awareness, and end of term presentations.