Indigenous Studies 2104

Tsi Karhakta: “Edge of the Woods”

Introductory Mohawk Language

Fall / Winter 2019-2020

Tues. 12:30 – 1:30, Thurs. 1:30 – 3:30, SSC-3108

Instructor: David Kanatawakhon-Maracle

Office Hours: By Appointment

Indigenous Studies, Office SSC-3214

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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’kehà, 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.
**Prerequisite(s):**

Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event you are dropped from the course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Antirequisite(s):**

The former First Nations Studies 2112.

**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.
Course Materials/Required Text(s):

The course materials will center around two texts: a grammar text (*Tsi Karhakta “At the Edge of the Woods”*) a grammar text providing explanations of various grammatical features and constructions; and a text of exercises and drills relevant to the grammatical explanations provided in grammar text. These two texts will be essential for the second half of the course. Additional supplementary grammar and cultural materials in the form of handouts and booklets will also be made available from time to time throughout the course where applicable. The grammar text and some of the supplementary materials will be accompanied by a digital CD-Rom version utilizing a PowerPoint presentation with audio.

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.

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: 20%

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: 15%

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%
The student will be made aware that participation is directly linked to attendance. This
means that the student must be actively involved in the various course activities which
may require whole class participation, small group participation or when working on
one’s own. Always keep in mind, that if one is not in class, then one is not participating.
This aspect of the course is very important.

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

Important Policies

A Note on Plagiarism:
Students must write the 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 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 licencing agreement, currently between the University of
Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Laptops and other Electronic/Phones in Class: (“clickers”, if used)
Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sits
such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be tols 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.
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 SAcademic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence (SRA) form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will not be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 SRAs, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/Self_Reported_Absence.html

Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accomodation. Information regarding accomodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

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Scholastic Offenses

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 (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options on how to obtain help.
Course Schedule – Winter Term

Week 1
Jan. 7  Chapter 1: “Using Ne”
Jan. 9  Chapter 2: “Creating Simple Statements”

Week 2
Jan. 14 Chapter 3: “Demonstratives”
Jan. 16 Chapter 4: “Possession”

Week 3
Jan. 21 Chapter 5: “Colours”
Jan. 23 Chapter 5 continued…

Week 4
Jan. 28 Chapter 6 “Using Possessive”
Jan. 30 Chapter 6 continued…
TEST 2 (5%) on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Week 5
Feb. 4 Chapter 7 “Adjectivals”
Feb. 6 Chapter 7 continued...

Week 6
Feb. 11 Chapter 8 “Adverbials”
Feb. 13 Chapter 8 continued...
Feb. 17 to Feb. 21 READING WEEK

Week 7
Feb. 24 Chapter 9 “Negatives”
Feb. 27 Chapter 9 continued...

Week 8
Mar. 3  Chapter 10 “Adjectival Suffixes”
Mar. 5  Chapter 11 “Comparisons”
TEST 3 (5%) on Chapters 1 - 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Week 9
Mar. 10 Chapter 12 “Numericals”
Mar. 12 Chapter 12 continued…
Week 10
Mar. 17 Chapter 13 “Kinship”
Mar. 19 Chapter 13 continued…

CULTURE APPRECIATION (15%) QUIZ

Week 11
Mar. 24 Chapter 14 “Dealing with Statives”
Mar. 26 Chapter 15 “Dealing with Perfectives”

Week 12
Mar. 31 Chapter 16 “Conjoining statements”
Apr. 2 Chapter 16 continued…

TEST 4 (5%) on Chapters 1 – 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Week 13
Apr. 7 Course Material Review
Apr. 9 Course Review continued…

WINTER TERM PROJECT (20%) due