



**The University of Western Ontario**

**Indigenous Studies Course 2104**

**Introductory Mohawk Language**

**Tsi Karhakta “Edge of the Woods”**

**Lecture (via Zoom): Mondays 9:30 – 11:30: Wednesdays 10:30 – 11:30**

**Prof. Dr. David Kanatawakhon**

**Office Hours (via Zoom): By appointment**

**Email: [david.kanatawakhon@uwo.ca](mailto:david.kanatawakhon@uwo.ca)**

---

**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.

\* Please note that for the 2020- 2021 academic year, this course will be taught virtually using “emergency remote teaching” methods. This means there will be no in-person classes on campus. Students are encouraged to virtually attend the class during the regularly scheduled time each weekas

there will be important discussions taking place during class; however lectures will be recorded and posted to the course OWL website soon after the scheduled class finishes. Students who miss a class accept full responsibility for working independently to prepare for the following week. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they have the technology and bandwidth to successfully complete the course.

**Pre-requisite(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.

**Anti-requisite(s):** None

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- A. introduce yourself to others, describe yourself and those around you;
- B. talk about and describe the world of which you are a part;
- C. describe and refer to the time when something occurs;
- D. recognize, explain, and appreciate some Indigenous (Iroquoian – Mohawk) traditions and cultural experiences;
- E. see the world from a different perspective by relying on your experiences during this part of the trip.

**Required Texts:**

The text material for the course will be provided online during the lectures which will be made available via Zoom.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

**1. Vocabulary Acquisition Tests** – 6 tests (3%, 3%, 4% 3%, 3%, 4%) for a total value **20%**

The student will also be provided with the opportunity to assess their language acquisition based upon text (reading) materials provided for the course and through oral language use and comprehension in the language. All answers to the tests will be provided to the teacher in a written and a recorded oral language format. All vocabulary acquisition tests will be treated as take-home, to be completed and returned by the required date.

**2. Language Skills Tests** – 6 tests (3%, 3%, 4% 3%, 3%, 4%) for a total value **20%**

The student will be tested on their skill using the language correctly in conversational situations based on the topics provided, and through language use in response to question /answer exercises provided in an written format. The student will provide written answers in addition to an oral language presentation of their answers to be returned to the teacher for evaluation. All vocabulary acquisition tests will be treated as take-home, to be completed and returned by the required date.

**3. 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 written part of the assignment the student will also produce an audio version of their work.

**4. Winter Term Language Project** **15%**

The student will choose an English language story from a collection of stories to translate into Mohawk which they will then provide an audio version in addition to the written story to be handed in to the professor for evaluation by the required date.

**5. Mid Term Test** **10%**

The student will write a mid-term test, as a take-home test, focusing on the Fall Term course material taught. The test will deal with both vocabulary acquisition and the use of grammar features and functions. All answers to the test will be required in a written and audio format. The mid-term Test will be provided to the student on the last day of class in the fall term, Dec. 9, 2020 and must be submitted to the Professor no later than Dec. 15, 2020.

**6. Final Assignment** **10%**

The student will write a take-home final assignment dealing with the Fall and Winter Terms course material taught. The primary focus of the assignment will be the vocabulary and grammatical features and functions of the weekly stories provided during the Winter term. The final Assignment will be provided to the student on the last day of class in the winter term, April 5, 2021 and must be submitted to the Professor no later than April 12, 2021. All answers to the assignment must be presented in a written and audio format.

**7. Attendance and Participation – fall term 5% & winter term 5%** **10%**

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.

**INDIGENOUS STUDIES 2104  
INTRODUCTORY MOHAWK**

Weekly Schedule

**Mondays 1:30 – 3:30. Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:30**

**Fall Term**

Sept. 9, Wed. Sept. 9

Introduction and Pronunciation

Week 1: Sept. 14, 16

Introducing Yourself

Week 2: Sept. 21, 23

Introducing Someone Else

**Vocabulary Acquisition Test 1 for Week 1 5%**

Week 3: Sept. 28, 30

Who is That?

Week 4: Oct. 5, 7

Where Are You From?

**Language Skills Test 1 for Weeks 1, 2 & 3: 5%**

Week 5: Oct. 12, 14

What's Going On?

**Vocabulary Acquisition Test 2 for Weeks 2, 3, & 4: 5%**

Week 6: Oct. 19, 21

All About Family?

Week 7: Oct. 26, 28

All About Ownership

**Fall Term Language Project Assigned Language**

**Skills Test 2 for Weeks 4, 5 & 6: 5%**

**Fall Term Reading Week: Nov. 2 – 8, 2020.**

Week 8: Nov. 9, 11

All About Colours

Week 9: Nov. 16, 18

All About Numbers and Quantity

**Vocabulary Acquisition Test 3 for Weeks 5, 6, 7, & 8: 5%**

Week 10: Nov. 23, 25

All About the Weather

**Language Skills Test 3 for Weeks 7, 8 & 9: 5%**

Week 11: Nov. 31, Dec. 2

All About Location

Week 12: Dec. 7, 9

Review Fall Course Material

**Fall Term Language Project Due: 15%**

**Mid-Term Test (take-home format) worth 10%**

**Christmas Break**

**Winter Term Begins – Jan. 11, 2021**

**Winter Term 2021**

Week 12: Jan. 11, 13, 2021

Review of Fall Term Material

Week 13: Jan. 18, 20

How Do You Feel?

**Language Skills Test 3 for Weeks 7, 8, 9, & 10: 5%**

Week 14: Jan. 25, 27

How Did You Feel?

**Vocabulary Acquisition Test 4 for Weeks 9, 10, 11, & 12: 5%**

Week 15: Feb. 1, 3

**Oh Nenyohthonhake’ “How Will It Be?”**

**Language Skills Test 4 for Weeks 11, 12, 13 & 14: 5%**

Week 16: Feb. 8, 10

**Oh Nayohtonhake’ “How Should It Be?”**

**Winter Term Reading Week: Feb. 15 – 19, 2021**

Week 17: Feb. 22, 24

What About Tomorrow?

Week 18: Mar. 1, 3

Referring To Others

**Vocabulary Acquisition Test 5 for Weeks 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18: 5%**

Week 19: Mar. 8, 10

Negating the Past

**Language Skills Test 5 for Weeks 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18: 5%**

Week 20: Mar. 8, 10

**Tsi Niwakyatyerenh “What I have Done”**

Week 21: Mar. 22, 24

**Tsi Niwakyatyerenne’ “What I had Done”**

**Language Skills Test 6 for Weeks 18, 19 & 20: 5%**

Week 22: Mar. 29, 31

**Tsi Naonkwatyerenh** “*What I Would Have Done*”

**Vocabulary Acquisition Test 6 for Weeks 19, 20, 21, & 22: 5%**

Week 23: April 5, 7

**Tsi Niwakatyerenhatye**’ “*What I Am Doing.*”

**Course Material Comprehension Assignment Due April 12, 2021 10%**

Week 24: Apr. 12

Review of Winter Term Material

**Winter Term Language Project Due: 15%**

## **Important Policies**

### ***Policies for Assignment Deadlines***

All written assignments are to be submitted electronically to the instructor and are due at the start of class on the assigned date. A 5% deduction per day will apply to late papers, including papers submitted after class has started. Please see the Instructor in advance of the due date, if an extension is required. Further information on “Academic Consideration for Missed Work” is below.

Assignment objectives and rubrics will be posted on OWL, as well as discussed in class via Zoom. Should you have a concern regarding the grade you received for an assignment, you **must wait 24 hours** from the receipt of the grade (on OWL) to contact the instructor. In doing so, please make an appointment and prepare in writing, with evidence, why you feel your grade is inappropriate. Please be aware that in requesting a grade reassessment, your grade could go up/down/or stay the same. Note that calculations errors (which do occur!) should be brought to my attention immediately.

### ***Academic Consideration for Missed Work***

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements must submit a request for academic consideration through the appropriate route:

- (i) For **absences 48 hours or less**, students can complete a [Self-Reported Absence \(SRA\)](#) form provided the conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. The form [can be completed online](#). The SRA can be used only twice. Please note the important exceptions to this rule:
  - i. Not permitted for final exams or assessments worth more than 30% of a course.
- (ii) 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 a course, 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). Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

- (iii) All of the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling procedures can be found here:  
<https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/index.html>

**Students seeking academic consideration:**

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work.
- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence.
- **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.**

**Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:**

- **Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability** are responsible for determining, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the [Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability](#). Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.
- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through [Student Health and Wellness](#) and [Learning Development & Success](#) in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

***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 as outlined in the [Scholastic Discipline](#) policy.

***Scholastic Offences***

Scholastic offences (including plagiarism) 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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***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](http://www.turnitin.com)).

### ***Policies on Examinations***

No electronic devices of any kind are allowed during tests and examinations.

### ***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](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Mental Health***

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources at Western to assist you. Please visit the [Mental Wellbeing website](#) for more information on mental health resources.