

## Indigenous Studies 2104

**Tsi Karhakta: “Edge of the Woods”**

**Introductory Mohawk Language**

**Fall / Winter 2021-2022**

**Tues. 10:30 – 12:30 (In-class) SSC 3108, Thurs. 10:30 – 11:30, (via Zoom)**

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’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 2021- 2022 academic year, this course will be taught using a “blended” method. This means there will both in-class lectures and lectures via Zoom each week of the course . With this particular 3 hour class, students will attend two (2) hours of in-class instruction and one (1) hours of course material instruction via Zoom. Students are encouraged to virtually attend the one hour Zoom class during the regularly scheduled time each week as there will be important language material presented during that time. Lectures for the one hour class will be recorded and posted to the course OWL website soon after the scheduled class finishes. Students who miss any class, in-class or online, 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.

***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):***

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**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:**

The course materials will consist of weekly handouts of the materials to be learned and additional supplements of language and cultural materials in the form of booklets and handouts to be handed out where applicable during the course. All materials used for the course will be available on the OWL site.

### **Method of Evaluation:**

The evaluation method for this course will require ample recordings by the student speaking and using the language. In addition to the audio requirement the student will also be responsible for providing a written version of their work as it is backed up by the audio version.

#### **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 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.

#### **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 a written format. The student will provide written answers in addition to an oral language presentation of their answers to be returned to the teacher on the date specified on the schedule.

#### **3. Fall Term Language Project – 1 project @ 15% becomes 15%**

The student will choose 15 Descriptive Roots from a list of Roots provided by the Professor and proceed to conjugate them according to what has been taught during the Fall session. Upon the completion of the written part of this project the student will then

produce an audio version of their work. The entire project should be then presented as a Power Point file.

**4. Winter Term Language Project -- 1 project @ 15% becomes 15%**

The student will produce a short story written in the Mohawk language and accompanied by an audio version of their project. The student will be provided with a number of English language stories to choose from for conversion to Mohawk. The student may choose a story of their own providing that it meets the expectation of the Professor for vocabulary requirements.

**5. Mid Term Take-home Exam 10%**

The student will write a Mid-term exam, as a take-home, focussing on the Fall Term course material taught. The exam will deal with both vocabulary acquisition and the use of grammar features and functions. The Mid-term Exam will be provided to the student on the last day of class in the fall term, Dec. 2, 2021 and must be submitted to the Professor no later than Dec. 9, 2021.

**6. Final Take-home Exam 10%**

The student will write a take-home Final exam dealing with the Fall and Winter Terms course material taught. The primary focus of the exam will be the vocabulary and grammatical features and functions of the weekly stories provided during the Winter term. The Final Exam will be provided to the student on the last day of class in the winter term, March 31, 2022 and must be submitted to the Professor no later than April 8, 2022.

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

The Professor of the course will take attendance at the beginning of each class. 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.

## Important Policies

### *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 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.

### *Policies for Assignment Deadlines*

All projects and take-home tests assigned 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.

Project objectives and rubrics, as well as assigned tests will be posted on OWL, as well as discussed in during in-class sessions and via online (Zoom) sessions. Should you have a concern regarding the grade you received for a tests or project, 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.

### ***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)

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

No electronic devices of any kind or written aids are allowed during tests and examinations unless the Professor has indicated that such can be allowed.

### ***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.

**IS 2104 Introductory Mohawk**  
**2021 - 2022**

**Fall Term: Tuesdays 10:30 – 12:30 (in-class), Thursdays 11:30 – 12:30 (online)**

Sept. 9

Week 1: Introduction and Pronunciation

Sept. 14 – 16

Week 2: Introducing Oneself

Sept. 21 – 23

Week 3: Introducing Someone Else

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

Sept. 28 – 30

Week 4: Who is That?

**Language Skills Test 1 for Weeks 1, 2, 3 & 4: 5%**

Oct. 5 – 7

Week 5: Where Are You From?

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

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**Thanksgiving, October 11, 2021**

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Oct. 19 – 21

Week 6: What's Going On?

**Language Skills Test 2 for Weeks 5 & 6: 5%**

Oct. 26 – 28

Week 7: All About Family?

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**Fall Term Reading Week, November 1 – 7, 2021**

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Nov. 9- 11      Week 8: All About Ownership

**Fall Term Language Project Assigned**



Nov. 16 – 18

Week 9: All About Colours

**Vocabulary Acquisition Test 3 for Weeks 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9: 5%**

Nov. 23 – 25

Week 10: All About Numbers and Quantity

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

Nov. 30 – Dec. 2

Week 11: All About the Weather

Dec. 7

Week 12: All About Location

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

**Mid-Term Take-home**

**to be completed and submitted by Dec. 9, 2021: 10%**

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### **Dec. 3 End of Fall Classes**

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**Winter Term: Wednesday 10:30 – 12:30 (in-class), Thursdays 11:30 – 12:30 (online)**

Jan. 4 – 6

Week 13: **Oh Niyocht.** “*How Is It?*”

**Winter Term Language Project Assigned**

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

Jan. 11 – 13

Week 14: **Oh Niyochtòne’.** “*How Was It?*”

Jan. 18 - 20

Week 15: **Oh Nenyohthonhake’.** “*How Will It Be?*”

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

Jan. 25 – 27

Week 16: **Oh Nayohtonhake’.** “*How Should It Be?*”

Feb. 1 – 3

Week 17: What About Tomorrow?

**Vocabulary Acquisition Test 5 for Weeks 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18: 5%**

Feb. 8 – 10

Week 18: Referring To Others

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

Feb. 15 – 17

Week 19: Negating the Past

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**Spring Term Reading Week February 19 - 27**

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Mar. 1 – 3

Week 20: Tsi Niwakatyerenh “*What I have Done*”

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

Mar. 8 – 10

Week 21: Tsi Niwakatyerenne’ “*What I had Done*”

Mar. 15 – 17

Week 22: Tsi Naonkwatyerenh “*What I Would Have Done*”

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

Mar. 22 – 24

Week 23: Tsi Niwakatyerenhatye’ “*What I Am Doing.*”

**Winter Term Language Project Due March 24, 2022: 15%**

Mar. 29 – 31

Week 24: Course Material Review.

**Final Takehome Exam provided March 31, 2022, due April 8, 2022.**

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**Apr. 1 End of Winter Classes**

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