The University of Western Ontario
FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 2113
Algonquian Language & Culture
Fall/Winter 2016/17
Tuesdays, 7:00pm - 10:00pm, SSC3108

Instructor: Mario Wassaykeesic
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:00pm
First Nations Studies, Office: SSC 4245
Email: mwassayk@uwo.ca

Course Description
This course follows the Anishinawbe 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-Anishinawbe; 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 Anishinawbe 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 Anishinawbe protocols will be respected and will be followed by everyone during all classes.

Anishinawbe 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 Anishinawbe learning 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 basically 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-Barai, Edward. The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway. (*optional)

Method of Evaluation
All assignments will involve the use of the Ojibwe language
Presentations 60%
Final Exam 30%
Participation 10%

Evaluation Breakdown
Presentation #1 (20%) November 15th, 2016
Introduction:
Students will prepare a five-minute presentation, or monologue, on their introduction of self. Students have the creative freedom to express themselves through their vocal skills, addressing themselves to his/her peers of their name, from where, relations, etc., for example.

Presentation #2 (20%) February 2nd, 2017
What I Did:
Students will prepare a five-minute presentation, or monologue, on a day’s event. Student will use their creative abilities to share a little short story about themselves; what was involved; who was involved; what happened; how did it happen; etc.

Presentation #3 (20%) March 8th, 2017
What I Learned:
Students will prepare a five-minute monologue or presentation on what they have learned from this Ojibwe Language and Culture course. What part they enjoyed; what part they thought was not fun, either personal or in-class; how has this course helped, or prepared, the student; how has this course differed from previous courses; what did the student(s) learn from the course, the instructor, the guests, etc.
Participation (10%)
There is twenty-six (26) classes altogether for this Fall/Winter course; students are encouraged to participate through engagement in the group activities, through the use of voice, and movement. Regular attendance to a course like this is very important. Missing one class can very quickly put you far behind. 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 instructor. Remember, you have chosen to attend this course and it is up to you to maintain good attendance and participation.

Final Exam (30%) Date TBA April 2017

How To Contact Me:
Email: nwassayk@uwo.ca
Office: SSC 4245, Tuesdays, Office Hours: 6:00 – 7:00pm

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. Recording devices will be permitted, and encouraged, helping students hear their own recorded voice in the Ojibwe language.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness
Western’s policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at:
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](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](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:


**Mental Health**

Students who are in [emotional/mental distress](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf) should refer to Mental Health@Western ([http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.
Course Schedule and Readings:

Tuesday, September 13th, 2016
Introduction:
Lesson 1: Learning the Sounds / Classroom Phrases

Tuesday, September 20th, 2016
Lesson 2: Playing Cards

Tuesday, September 27th, 2016
Lesson 3: Being Weathered In

Tuesday, October 4th, 2016
Lesson 1, 2 & 3 Revisited

Tuesday, October 11th, 2016
Lesson 4: In the Classroom

Tuesday, October 18th, 2016
Lesson 5: Friends

Tuesday, October 25th, 2016
Lesson 6: At Home

Tuesday, November 1st, 2016
Lesson 7: Visiting Gookum

Tuesday, November 8th, 2016
Lesson 8: On the Phone

Tuesday, November 15th, 2016
Lesson 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 Revisited

Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016
Lesson 9: Moving Day
Presentation # 1 (20%)

Tuesday, November 29th, 2016
Lesson 10: Washing Clothes

Tuesday, December 6th, 2016
Lesson 14: At the Restaurant

Tuesday, January 10th, 2017
Lesson 9, 10 & 14 Revisited

Tuesday, January 17th, 2017
Lesson 11: Shopping

Tuesday, January 24th, 2017
Lesson 12: Doing Homework

Tuesday, January 31st, 2017
Lesson 13: At the Hospital

Tuesday, February 7th, 2017
Lesson 11, 12 & 13 Revisited
Presentation # 2 (20%)

Tuesday, February 14th, 2017
Lesson 15: Houseguests Arriving

Tuesday, February 21st, 2017
READING WEEK

Tuesday, February 28th, 2017
Lesson 16: At the Clinic

Tuesday, March 7th, 2017
Lesson 17: Visiting Family

Tuesday, March 14th, 2017
Lesson 15, 16 & 17 Revisited
Presentation # 3 (20%)

Tuesday, March 21st, 2017
Lesson 18: Getting the Car Fixed

Tuesday, March 28th, 2017
Lesson 19: At Work

Tuesday, April 4th, 2017
Lessons 1 - 19 Revisited