



**The University of Western Ontario
FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 2113
Algonquian Language & Culture
Fall/Winter 2017/18
Tuesdays, 7:00pm - 10:00pm, SSC 3108**

Instructor: Mario Wassaykeesic

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 6:00 – 7:00pm

First Nations Studies, Office: SSC

Email: mwassayk@uwo.ca

Course Description

This course follows the *Anishinawbe* way of learning. Students will observe, listen, reflect and also participate in various physical activities using the basic Ojibwe language, *Anishinaabemowin*. 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 unique 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-Banai, 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 28th, 2017

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 6th, 2018

What I Did:

Students will prepare a five-minute presentation, or monologue, on a day's event, whether it is current, past or may be future; must have at least 15-20 sentences, statements, majority of the Ojibwe vocabulary is strongly encouraged. Student will be able to use their creative abilities to share/prepare a little short story, monologue about themselves; what was/is/will be involved; who was/is/will be involved; what has/did/will happen(ed); how did it happen; etc.

Presentation # 3 (20%) March 13th, 2018

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. Also, students must have at least 20-25 sentences/statements.

Participation (10%)

There are twenty-six (26) classes altogether for this 2017/2018 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 2018

How To Contact Me:

Email: mwassayk@uwo.ca

Office: SSC , 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/uni/sec/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:

http://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: 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

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:

http://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://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Tuesday, September 12th, 2017
Introduction / Intro Ojibwe

Tuesday, September 19th, 2017
Lesson 1: Introduction

Tuesday, September 26th, 2017
Lesson 2: Playing Cards

Tuesday, October 3rd, 2017
Lesson 3: Being Weathered In

Tuesday, October 10th, 2017
READING WEEK

Tuesday, October 17th, 2017
Lesson 4: In the Classroom

Tuesday, October 24th, 2017
Lesson 5: Friends

Tuesday, October 31st, 2017
Lesson 2, 3, 4 & 5 Revisited

Tuesday, November 7th, 2017
Lesson 6:

Tuesday, November 14th, 2017
Lesson 7: Visiting Gookum

Tuesday, November 21st, 2017
Lesson 5, 6 & 7 Revisited

Tuesday, November 28th, 2017
Presentation # 1 (20%)

Tuesday, December 5th, 2017
Lesson 14: At the Restaurant

Tuesday, January 9th, 2018
Lesson 1-7, 14 Revisited

Tuesday, January 16th, 2018
Lesson 8: On the Phone

Tuesday, January 23th, 2018
Lesson 9: Moving Day

Tuesday, January 30th, 2018
Lesson 10: Washing Clothes

Tuesday, February 6th, 2018
Presentation # 2 (20%)

Tuesday, February 13th, 2018
Lesson 8, 9 & 10 Revisited

Tuesday, February 20th, 2018
READING WEEK

Tuesday, February 27th, 2018
Lesson 11: Shopping

Tuesday, March 6th, 2018
Lesson 12: Doing Homework

Tuesday, March 13th, 2018
Presentation # 3 (20%)

Tuesday, March 20st, 2018
Lesson 10, 11 & 12 Revisited

Tuesday, March 27th, 2018
Lesson 13: At the Hospital

Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018
Lessons 1 - 14 Revisited