

## ANTHROPOLOGY/INDIGENOUS STUDIES 2253A-001

### Endangered Languages and Revitalization

#### COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2020

**Instructor:** Dr. Tania Granadillo (she/her)

**Email:** tgranadi@uwo.ca

**Office Hours:** You can find me on Zoom Tuesdays 10-12 EST and by appointment.

**Credit value:** 0.5 credit

**Mode of delivery:** For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online. It is *asynchronous*, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

**Calendar Course Description:** This course focuses on endangered languages and the local and global factors affecting language vitality and revival. Practical strategies for sustaining and reviving languages, including language documentation and revitalization, will be addressed with examples coming from various areas of the world and special focus on Indigenous languages of the Americas.

**Antirequisites:** INDIGENOUS STUDIES/ANTHROPOLOGY 2253A/B.

**Prerequisites:** None.

#### Course Syllabus:

In this class we will explore a current crisis that receives very little attention: the loss of linguistic diversity. We will begin by examining what is meant by language endangerment and its consequences, followed by an examination of the various responses to this situation. We will address these issues from an anthropological and linguistic lens and examine cases all over the world. Each student will have the opportunity to research a particular language (no duplicates allowed!) of a particular location of their choosing throughout the term and apply the knowledge learned to their particular case.

*A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site before the first day of class.*

#### Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- describe language endangerment and language revitalization efforts.
- understand different socio-political and economic factors underlying language endangerment
- identify consequences of language endangerment
- identify and describe various language revitalization strategies
- present in written form and orally information about endangered languages and language revitalization

**Course Materials:**

- Thomason, Sarah G. (2015) *Endangered Languages: An introduction*. Cambridge University Press. Physical copy available at the Bookstore or [e-book](#) available for purchase.

*Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.*

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the following:

**Quizzes – 20%**

Each week there will be a quiz based on the readings for that week. Students should do this after reading the materials assigned and before any other activities for the week.

**Homework Assignments – 70%**

Every week starting in week 2, there will be an assignment posted related to that week's topic. Students must complete 7 out of 9 assignments each one worth 10%. If more than 7 are completed, the top 7 will be used to calculate the final grade. At least 4 must be completed by Nov 2. More details will be provided on OWL.

**Wikipedia Editing Assignment – 10%**

Throughout the term we will be working towards editing/enhancing a Wikipedia article. This will be a gradual process with many steps required but the final grade will be based on the article edited/enhanced. All steps are required.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the 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](#).

**Course Specific Statements and Policies:**

Students enrolled in Indigenous Studies must work on an Indigenous language of the Americas.

**Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:**

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

**Statement 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. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

### **Institutional Statements and Policies**

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).

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