

Department of Anthropology

ANTH 2253B/IS 2253B 200– Endangered languages and language revitalization

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2023-24

Version date: January 8, 2024

Instructor and course information:

Class day/time: Fridays 10:30-12:30

Classroom: SSC 3026 (additionally, there is an online component that needs to be completed through OWL)

Office: SSC 3408

Office hours: To be announced on the course OWL site.

Email: tgranadi@uwo.ca

Credit Value: 0.5

Requisites:

Antirequisites: None

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

In this class we will explore a current crisis that receives very little attention: the loss of linguistic diversity. This course focuses on endangered languages and the local and global factors affecting language vitality and revival. 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. 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. 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:

Weekly Quiz	20%
Assignments	70%
Culminating assignment	10%

Quizzes – 20%

Each week there will be a quiz on OWL based on the materials assigned for that week. Students should do this after reading/watching /listening to the materials assigned and before coming to lecture. This will be due 30 min. before class. Lowest quiz will be dropped.

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 10 assignments each one worth 10%. If more than 7 are completed, the top 7 will be used to calculate the final grade. At least 3 must be completed by the March 07 (last day to withdraw).

Culminating Assignment – 10%

Using all of the info compiled in the homework assignments, students will create a summary for lay audience. This can take a variety of formats such as an infographic, a short video or podcast. More details will be provided on OWL. This will be due during the exam period.

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](#).

Academic Statements and Policies:

Academic Integrity - 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.

Use of OWL

Western's online course management program, will be used for providing the final course outline and weekly schedule (using the Syllabus page), completing weekly quizzes (using the Test and Quizzes tool), providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page), and communicating with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). Pdf copies of Powerpoint presentations will be made available in the OWL Lesson pages. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

Accommodation Policies:

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

All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period in the applicable term.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.