Course Description and Objectives

This course examines the language patterns and language functions of the Algonquian languages Cree and Ojibwe. We will outline a variety of important grammatical features running from the patterns found in words to those of sentences and larger units of discourse. We will also examine a range of published language teaching and reference materials, and consider how to use these in local programs of Algonquian language learning. We will address issues such as what a learner needs to know in order to use a dictionary effectively, and what a learner needs to know in order to carry out basic language functions such as asking questions, making statements, and giving commands.

The table below lays out the topics to be addressed and associated assignments. Time will be given in class to work on assignments, and students who are conscientious in attendance should be able to complete almost all assignments within the class period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment &amp; Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 - Day 1</td>
<td>Introduction and Overview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 - Day 2</td>
<td>Sounds and Pronunciation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 - Day 3</td>
<td>Roman Writing Systems</td>
<td>Writing Assignment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 - Day 4</td>
<td>Syllabic Writing Systems</td>
<td>Writing Assignment 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 - Day 5</td>
<td>Teaching Pronunciation and Writing</td>
<td>Writing Assignment 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 - Day 1</td>
<td>Words - Nouns 1 gender, number, obviation, locative, pejorative, vocative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 - Day 2</td>
<td>Words - Pronouns</td>
<td>Words Assignment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 - Day 3</td>
<td>Words - Verbs 1 basic types &amp; preverbs</td>
<td>Words Assignment 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 - Day 4</td>
<td>Words - Verbs 2 verbal orders</td>
<td>Words Assignment 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 - Day 5</td>
<td>Words - Dictionary usage</td>
<td>Words Assignment 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 - Day 1</td>
<td>Sentences - simple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 - Day 2</td>
<td>Sentences - adding time expressions</td>
<td>Sentence Assignment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 - Day 3</td>
<td>Sentences - adding location expressions</td>
<td>Sentence Assignment 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 - Day 4</td>
<td>Sentences - questions, positive and negative</td>
<td>Sentence Assignment 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance

All of the material covered in this course will be presented in regular class time, and time will be given in class to complete assignments. Regular and prompt attendance is essential to successful completion of the course. Marks will be deducted for unexcused absence and for late arrival, amounting to a maximum of 20%, at a rate of 10% for an unexcused absence and 5% for a late arrival.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be on the basis of class participation and successful completion of assignments. Assignments will be graded according to appropriateness of response, organization, accuracy of spelling, neatness and originality. Course marks will be weighted as follows:

Attendance/Participation 20%
Assignments 80% (8% for each assignment)

Incomplete Standing

Lakehead University has the following policy regarding incompletes: “It is the responsibility of the student to complete all work in accordance with the time schedule communicated by the instructor at the beginning of the course. If for some reason the student is unable to complete the course requirements on time, it is her/her responsibility to apply in writing for an extension. If granted, the student will receive an Incomplete grade and the University Policy with respect to such grades will apply. If the student makes no formal application for an extension the instructor will submit a grade based on a zero grade for the uncompleted portion of the work. This grade will hold unless a Change of Mark form is submitted by the instructor and approved by the Chairperson and Director.”

Required Texts

All Students:


Depending on the student’s language and dialect, texts will be as follows:

Speakers of Odawa/Central Ojibwe


Speakers of western varieties of Ojibwe, who primarily write with a Roman script:


Speakers of northern varieties of Ojibwe, who primarily write with syllabics:


Speakers of Cree


List of Additional Resources

The following materials will be discussed during the course.

Writing


Dictionaries


Wilson, Edward. 1878. The Ojebway language: A manual for missionaries and others employed among the Ojebway Indians. Toronto: Printed by Rownell and Hutchison for the Venerable Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, London. [pdf just samples of paradigms and entries]
Grammars and Grammatical Sketches


Baraga, Frederic. 1850. A theoretical and practical grammar of the Ojibway language, the language spoken by the Chipewa Indians, which is also spoken by the Algonquin, Ottawa and Potawatomi Indians, with little difference. Detroit: Jabez Fox.


Language Learning Resources


Text Collections


**Story Analysis**

