

## **Course Name: Ojibwe Language and Tradition I**

### **Instructor Information**

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### **Course Description**

Ojibwe Language and Tradition is an introduction to Native Ojibwe language and culture for high school students. This course will acquaint students with beautifully descriptive language vocabulary and sentence structure patterns. The standardized Double Vowel System of reading and writing the language will be used. Students will explore the circle of season's woodland tradition in the context with language acquisition. Activities are designed to promote speaking and listening, as well as reading and writing the language.

### **My Vision of the Course**

I think Ojibwe Language is the most life-changing course a student can experience. Not only does it impact the student's world-view, it challenges the student to recognize the cultural beauty and diversity in their own region. These students gain pride in becoming an elite group of people who connect with Native American heritage and promote Ojibwe language renewal and preservation. For a Native student learning their own language, the experiences and connections can be deeply personal.

### **Course Outcomes**

*Students will:*

- Incorporate language sounds, verbs, and nouns to communicate;
- Use the Double Vowel System writing system;
- Identify woodland cultural traditions based in the circle of seasons; and
- Tell a story in the Ojibwemowin based on language grammar and cultural context.

### **Course Materials & Resources**

*The required course readings are:*

- Book: [A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe](#) (Paperback) by John D, Nichols and Earl Nyholm, 1995  
\$10-15, Order from <http://www.Amazon.com> or through your school.
- Other course readings and web resources as supplied and assigned.
- We will be using Moodle to extend class discussion, provide access to the online grade book, and to submit assignments. You will need to use your Moodle ID to login to Moodle.

### **Curricular & Other Student Requirements**

*The prerequisite courses (courses you should have taken before this one) are:*

- There are no prerequisite courses needed for this course.

*You should be familiar with the following concepts before you take this course:*

- Concept 1 – How to navigate websites
- Concept 2 – How to open, complete, save and upload documents
- Concept 3 – How to download and open Quicktime Player on your computer

*You'll need the following technology to participate in this course:*

- Regular access to a computer with Windows XP, 2000, ME or 98, or Mac OS 9 or X.
- An Internet browser: [Firefox](#) (free download) is recommended
- An e-mail program is desirable, but not mandatory. If your school does not support student e-mail, a personal e-mail is fine.
- Virus protection for your computer in this day and age is a must! Norton Antivirus for Windows and Mac can be purchased. Contact your school technology director.

Answers to your computing questions can be found in the Moodle course help.

### **Teaching & Learning Environment**

#### *a. Teacher and Student Roles in this Course:*

The Students' role in the course is to be present for language lessons and assignments, as well as active participants. Their role is to be responsible for their timely work and know the timelines they are given. Students should be respectful of the Native content and respectful to classmates and the teacher. A good lesson to remember as you walk any path in life is to do the best job you can during any given moment. You may not have another opportunity to do it again. Be quietly proud and forever honest. Ask questions, work hard and have fun.

The Teacher's role in this course is to present accurate language and cultural content in a respectful manner. The teacher will be available to facilitate the learning process, answer questions, provide feedback and expand the student's abilities in language acquisition and diversity understanding. As the same as the Student's role, the teacher will do the best job he/she can, ask questions, work hard and have fun.

#### *b. My Philosophy of Teaching:*

Lifelong learning begins at birth and ends with our passing. Learning about you as a student helps me facilitate your learning from who and where you are on your path of life. As a teacher, I intend to pass on the love of learning, broaden their world view, generate tricks to help your discoveries, as well as being a positive role model. Simply and in many different ways: "We work, we get paid."

#### *c. Types of Learning Activities in this Course:*

This course will include Native philosophies such as hands-on exploration, respect, humor, collaboration and community. A Native Ojibwe elder's voice will

help practice vocabulary. Language grammar lessons will offer second chances for completion. We will have written assignments and quizzes, as well as a spoken component in the final exam. Interactive components include student group chat, forum, and glossary activities. The course will introduce students to several online resources for cultural discovery and expanded study.

### **MSC Online and Instructor Course Policies**

#### **a. Attendance**

It is assumed that students will login to a class session daily, although attendance will not be formally taken in the online class. Moodle technology allows the instructor to view activity logs. It is also assumed that over the course of the semester, all students will have conflicts that may prevent their class attendance. Rather than place myself in the role of the judge, I have structured the course so that every student has the same leeway in class attendance via the dropped daily assignment grade(s). Check assignments and due dates daily as new activities can be added at anytime.

The NE Online Learning Project will monitor student attendance in the courses offered through a variety of methods and will be able to provide attendance information to parents, enrolling districts and the MDE, as needed. If a student is not meeting the attendance expectations for a course, a three-step approach will be implemented:

STEP 1: The student will be required to meet with the instructor to review course requirements and progress, address any educational or technological issues the student may be having, and develop a plan for completion of the course that both the instructor and student agree upon. Counseling and administrative staff at the enrolling district will also be notified and involved, as appropriate.

STEP 2: If the student is still not meeting attendance and progress goals, the student will be required to meet with the instructor, parent/guardian, enrolling district principal and NE Online Administrator to determine whether the student can be successful in the course and what specific steps are required for that successful completion.

STEP 3: The instructor and the NE Online Administrator will continue to monitor the student's progress, communicate with parents and enrolling district staff, and determine if dismissal from the course is required.

### **Communication In & Outside of Class**

I will regularly post announcements if there is anything new added to the course. Telephone meetings can be arranged to help in communication, technical or class content help.

We will use the Message Links in our profiles to communicate one-on-one.

The Message Link is appropriate, when used to schedule an appointment, notify me of an absence or tardiness, or for short questions clarifying class assignments or specific items from the lecture.

## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Users are responsible for all electronic communications originating from their user accounts. This includes email, messaging, discussion board postings, chat discussions and other electronic communication within the NE Online resources.

*Therefore:*

1. Forgery or attempted forgery of electronic messages is prohibited.
2. Attempts to read, delete, copy, or modify the electronic messages of other users are prohibited, unless these actions are part of a specific course assignment.
3. Attempts to send harassing, obscene and/or other threatening email to another user are prohibited.
4. Attempts to send unsolicited junk mail, "for-profit" messages or chain letters are prohibited.
5. In addition, all users will be expected to abide by accepted guidelines of Internet etiquette (Netiquette) in all electronic communications.

## NETWORK AND SYSTEM SECURITY

In the normal use of NE Online Learning Project resources, users may be allowed to access other networks and/or the computer systems attached to those networks.

*Therefore:*

1. Use of systems and/or networks in attempts to gain unauthorized access to remote systems is prohibited.
2. Use of systems and/or networks to connect to other systems, in evasion of the physical limitations of the remote system/local, is prohibited.
3. Decryption of system or user passwords is prohibited.
4. The copying of system files is prohibited.
5. The copying or unauthorized use of copyrighted materials, such as third-party software or course content, without the express written permission of the owner or the proper license, is prohibited.
6. Intentional attempts to "crash" Network systems or programs are punishable disciplinary offenses.
7. Any attempts to secure a higher level of privilege on Network systems are punishable disciplinary offenses.
8. The willful introduction of computer "viruses" or other disruptive/destructive programs into the organization network or into external networks is prohibited.

## **Grading Policy**

- a. Late Assignments: Late assignments will be deducted one letter grade each day they are late. The school day will officially end at 5 pm each day, so all assignments are due by 5 pm.
- b. Make-ups: Assignments will be accepted within one week of an excused absence. Other arrangements will be made in documented emergencies.
- c. Exams and Quizzes: Exams and quizzes will be open for only a specific period of time. In an online environment, a code of academic honesty is trusted upon the student.
- d. Extra Credit: Extra credit may be given only when all regular coursework is handed in and the student has gained passing credit.
- e. Extensions: Only with documented emergencies and circumstances verified by school administrators.
- f. Civility (Acceptable classroom behavior): One re-teaching of behavior code will be offered. After that, the student will be asked to withdraw from the class and no credit will be given. If the behavior falls into immoral, illegal, or harassing, the student may be turned over to the appropriate authorities. All classroom chat, forums and communications are logged and this mode of education is monitored.

There are certain basic standards of classroom civility that should be adhered to, particularly in a communication course. Civility does not eliminate appropriate humor, enjoyment, or other features of a comfortable and pleasant classroom community. Classroom civility does, however, include the following:

- Displaying respect for all members of the classroom community, both your instructor and fellow students.
- Attentiveness to and participation in lectures, group activities, workshops, and other classroom exercises.
- Avoidance of unnecessary disruptions during class such as private conversations, reading campus newspapers, ringing cell phones, and doing work for other classes.
- Avoidance of racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom community.

These features of classroom civility do not comprise an exhaustive list. Rather, they represent the minimal sort of behaviors that help to make the classroom a pleasant place for all concerned. Those students who do not behave in a civil fashion will be asked to leave class.

- g. Grading Policy: There will be four major components that determine your grade in this course.

Daily Assignments and Quizzes: This is a course that will emphasize class discussion, vocabulary, grammatical patterns and written and oral practice. Students are expected to attend class and to be prepared. There will be small group discussions and whole class discussions, which will generally result in written work that will be handed in at the end of most classes or may be done online. The spoken practice will be recorded and presented to the instructor.

NOTE : Daily assignments are not “attendance” grades, even though they may not be “made-up” at a later date. At least one (and more likely two) daily assignment grade(s) will be dropped before the final grading, which fairly allows all students the same consideration for missing class.

Mid-Term Exam and Final Exam : Exams will be essay format that require more than memorization of facts, but also will necessitate a thoughtful synthesis of the class material.

Daily Assignments and Quizzes - 40%

Final Presentations - 20%

Mid-Term Exam - 20%

Final Exam - 20%

- h. Incomplete Policy: This course is designed to be highly interactive and to include regular dialogue between student and instructor and between students. Because of this, I need students to participate regularly, and to keep up with the course readings and assignments. If there is a lapse of attendance, the home district and NE Online participation policies will be adhered to.

**Other Policies** (You will adhere to policies of your home school district).

- a. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense with very real consequences. See the Student Code of Conduct for details: <http://www.dsa.indiana.edu/Code/index1.html> . There is a very useful interactive tutorial about what is and what is not plagiarism at <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/> :

- b. Religious Holidays

There is a rich mixture of religious and ethnic groups that make up our nation’s population. To ensure freedom of religious observance throughout our increasingly diverse population, my policy is to enable all students their religious observation with minimal disruption to the course. Important guidelines follow:

Any student who is unable to attend classes or participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on some particular day(s) because of their religious beliefs (his/her) must be given the opportunity to make up the work which was missed, provided that the makeup work does not create an unreasonable burden upon the other students or instructor. Upon request and timely notice, students shall be provided reasonable accommodation.

It is the responsibility of the student to inform their instructors, well IN ADVANCE, of a conflict based on religious observance and to cooperate with accommodations provided thereof. Students are expected to make up work either prior to the absence or at the earliest possible time afterward.

### **Other Course Requirements**

As part of the course requirements, students are expected to participate in:

- Online forums
- Outside research
- Offline practice

This is much more information than you will need right now. This document is for your reference. Read it when you have questions. If you still have questions, they can be directed to your instructor or school administration.