

School of Liberal Arts



LANG 140
Language and Culture Preservation
Fall 2023
3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Robyn Giffen	OFFICE HOURS	By appointment, on Zoom
OFFICE	n/a	CLASSROOM	Online
E-MAIL	rgiffen@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Wednesdays 4:00-5:20pm
TELEPHONE	--	CRN	10142
Dates	September 5 – December 4, 2023		
Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course students will learn about practical techniques of language documentation; the connection between language and culture; the use of archives in creating new language curriculum, incorporating traditional stories, ecological knowledge, and/or family histories; and the techniques being used to revitalize and maintain Indigenous languages and cultures around the world and in Yukon specifically. LANG 140 is a core course in the certificate of Heritage and Culture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

[Prerequisite(s): None

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

ASM HUMN 1 st (3)	SFU LING 1xx (3)	UFV ANTH 209 (3)
AU INST 1xx (3)	TRU FNST 1xxx (3)	UNBC FNST 1xx (3) or FNST 1xx (3)
KPU ARTS 1XXX (3)	UBCO ARTS 1 st (3)	UVIC LING 180A (1.5)
OC ANTH 1XX (3)	UBCV LING 1 st (3)	VIU LING 1 st (3)
For more information about transfer credit visit https://www.bctransferguide.ca/		

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

With conscientious effort, upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the concepts of “endangered languages”, “safe languages”, “extinct languages”, “language revitalization”, “language shift”, and “language maintenance”
- Describe the processes through which languages become endangered and why
- Explain basic concepts of linguistics and how they can be used for language learning
- Explain how language and culture are connected and how language curriculum can include culture and vice versa
- Describe how archives or recordings can be used to find language and cultural knowledge and how to process this information
- Describe a wide range of language-learning techniques used globally and how to apply these locally as well as define “language planning” and know how to apply this locally in Yukon First Nations communities

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

This course is delivered online with one meeting time (synchronous delivery) during which students are expected to attend by web-conferencing (Zoom) and engage with the instructor and other students.

Students are also expected to complete an assortment of asynchronous online activities (readings, lecture videos, discussion posts). Students should visit the course website (Moodle) throughout the week and work through materials and assignments.

The class will proceed on a timetable with set assignments and due dates. This is **not** a self-paced course.

Workload

Class time each week is 80 minutes. It is expected that this course will require approximately 3 hours/week to complete readings, watch lecture videos, and work on assignments. It is important to note that the time required for successful course completion will vary by individual.

EVALUATION

Zoom Attendance & Participation

Students are expected to attend and actively participate in weekly zoom classes including discussions and activities, as assigned by the instructor. The material covered in the class is cumulative in nature, and missing classes may put students at a disadvantage. These meetings will not be recorded.

Weekly Discussion Forum (12 in total) *due: every Sunday by 11:59pm*

Students are also expected to participate weekly in online discussions with their classmates. Students will respond to a set of discussion questions based on the weekly readings, lectures, videos, and/or current events. Students must complete their own discussion post as well as respond to at least one other classmate’s post. No late discussion posts or responses will be accepted.

Citation Assignment

In this course students will be using information from a variety of sources including academic journals, government documents, archives, newspapers, websites, and public media, etc. to complete their

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assignments. This small assignment will help students familiarize themselves with Yukon University's Plagiarism policy and practice APA citations and formatting.

Language Analysis & Assessment

Students will select a Yukon Indigenous language review the state of the language and complete a vitality assessment. They will submit a 3-4 page paper with the results of their assessment.

Presenting a Language Learning Method

Students will investigate one language learning method used in Indigenous language revitalization contexts and evaluate its suitability for the Indigenous language they are studying. They will submit a 6-8 minute video presentation sharing what they learned.

Review of Current Language Revitalization Efforts

Students will review one current language revitalization effort in the Indigenous language they are studying and make recommendations for future revitalization projects. They will submit a 3-4 page paper summarizing their research.

Final Exam

The take-home final exam will cover topics from the entire course and ask you to think critically and apply what you have learned. The exam is open-book, and you are expected to refer to (and cite) materials (readings, lectures, videos, etc.) from the class.

* Detailed assignment descriptions and grading rubrics can be found on the course website.

Evaluation	Weight
Zoom Attendance and Participation	5 %
Weekly Discussion Forum	15 %
Citation Assignment	15 %
Language Analysis & Assessment	15 %
Presenting a language learning Strategy	15 %
Review of Current Language Revitalization Effort	15 %
Final Exam	20 %
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

All readings and supplementary materials will be posted on the course website.

Students are required to have access to a computer, laptop, or tablet that can run and operate the online Moodle platform and Zoom web-conferencing. It is recommended that students have access to wired high-speed internet to efficiently use Moodle and to participate in Zoom class every week.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca. [Text updated 16 November 2022]

TOPIC OUTLINE

Dates	Topic	Preparation/Reading, etc.
Week 1: Sept 5-10	Introductions	Introductions forum post
Week 2: Sept 11-17	Language Loss	Weekly discussion post; Citation Assignment due Sept 17
Week 3: Sept 18-24	Language Revitalization	Weekly discussion post

Week 4: Sept 25-Oct 1	Yukon Languages and Programs	Weekly discussion post
Week 5: Oct 2-8	Language Planning	Weekly discussion post; Language Analysis & Assessment due Oct 8
Week 6: Oct 9-15	Language Learning & Teaching	Weekly discussion post
Week 7: Oct 16-22	Language Documentation & Materials Development	Weekly discussion post
Week 8: Oct 23-29	Sleeping Languages & Language Change	Weekly discussion post; Presenting a Language Learning Method due Oct. 29
Week 9: Oct 30-Nov 5	Creating New Words	Weekly discussion post
Week 10: Nov 6-12	Writing Systems	Weekly discussion post
Week 11: Nov 13-19	Language, Culture, and Ideology	Weekly discussion post Review of Revitalization Efforts due Nov 19
Week 12: Nov 20-26	Media & Technology	Weekly discussion post;
Week 13: Nov 27-Dec 3	Where do we go from here?	Weekly discussion post; Last zoom class Nov 29
Week 14: Dec 4-10		Take-Home Final Exam due Dec 8