

LING 301: Topics in the Structure of an Indigenous Language Family

## Iroquoian Languages

Fall 2020

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### Course Description:

The Iroquoian language family today includes languages of the Cherokee, Wendat, Wyandot(te), Tuscarora, Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk peoples. This course will explore various aspects of the linguistic structure of these languages, including phonology, morphology, discourse, and prosody. Other major topics in this course are the revitalization of these languages and the ties between language and culture. These discussions will be interwoven with and grounded in the lifeways, voices, and experiences of Iroquoian peoples, through written scholarly contributions, media, and guest lectures.

### Proposed Assignments:

- Participation 10%
- Language Exercises 15%
- Language Exploration 20%
- Presentation on Language Exploration 15%
- Final Project 40%

### Proposed Readings:

There will be no textbook, but here is a selection of the proposed readings:

- Abbott (2016), Contact and change in Oneida
- Chafe (1981), Differences between colloquial and ritual Seneca, or how oral literature is literary
- Green & Maracle (2018), The Root-Word Method for Building Proficient Second-Language Speakers of Polysynthetic Languages: Onkwawén:na Kentyókhwa Adult Mohawk Language Immersion Program
- Mithun (1984), The Proto-Iroquoians: Cultural reconstruction from lexical materials
- Peters & Peters (2013), Mohawk: Our Kanien'kéha Language
- And many more!