

ANTH 396 A01

COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tatiana Degai

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce the students to the diverse stories of Indigenous languages and cultures. We will explore the links between languages and cultures, analyze the histories and experiences of language shift in different language communities, discuss language ideologies, and refer to historical and political trends. The core questions of this course is to understand why language and culture diversity is important, what processes lay behind Indigenous languages, how sustainability of the languages can be achieved, and what role anthropology plays or can play in these processes.

This course is a combination of discussions of the readings, book club conversations, language immersion activities, response papers, group work, and student presentations. The final assignment of this course is developing a group research proposal that aims at strengthening a chosen Indigenous language.

Skills Development:

- Understand relationship between languages and cultures;
- Understand the processes that lay behind language vitality;
- Look into historical trends of Indigenous languages;
- Situate anthropological practices in language revitalization;
- Practice research proposal writing