



**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

LING 531  
Survey of Indigenous Languages of the Americas  
Fall 2019  
MWF 10–10:50 KNA 120

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Darin Flynn

**OFFICE LOCATION:** CHC 116

**OFFICE HOURS:** M 12–13:00, W 11-12:00

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 403-220-6110

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**DESCRIPTION**

A survey of the Indigenous languages of the Americas, including classifications of language families and structural analysis of selected languages.

**OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have an understanding of diverse Indigenous languages in North America. Students will explore the seriously endangered status of Indigenous languages — particularly in Canada — in the context of global language extinction and the erosion of complex systems of human knowledge. Students will also learn about research on and methodologies for collaborative, transdisciplinary, community-based documentation and revitalization of Indigenous linguistic heritage.

**OUTCOMES**

Students will have a grasp of how many Indigenous languages are represented in North America, how they are related, how they have changed and continue to change, how they are acquired as first and second languages, and what particular light they shed on our understanding of language as a human cognitive system. Students will also improve their understanding of the historical, social, cultural, political, and economic factors impacting on the loss, retention, and revival of Indigenous language. Finally, students will apply their training and understanding to particular theoretical and learning issues, focusing on a particular language or language family.

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

- Class participation = 10%
- Assignments = 25% (5 x 5%)
- Quizz = 10% (2 x 5%)
- Class presentation of family = 20%
- Research paper = 20%
- Applied revitalization project = 10%
- Class presentation of project = 5%

**GRADING SCALE**

A+ = 100-97 A = 93-96 A- = 92-88 B+ = 87-83 B = 82-78 B- = 77-73 C+ = 72-68  
C = 67-63 C- = 62-58 D+ = 57-53 D = 52-50 F = 49%



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#### REQUIRED TEXTS

There are no required texts other than those provided during the course (via D2L) by the instructor.

#### RECOMMENDED TEXTS

There are several useful books on Indigenous languages that a student could consult for 'encyclopedic' level knowledge of fundamental issues if desired. One such book is Marianne Mithun's *The Languages of Native North America* (Cambridge University Press, 1999) ISBN-13: 978-0521298759 ISBN-10: 052129875X

#### COURSE NOTES

- Attendance is mandatory, and all quizzes are held in class on dates announced in advance. Two quizzes are scheduled.
- Extensions or other consideration for late assignments or presenting or submitting reports will only be granted provided the conditions described below are met.
- All assignments, presentation materials, and final projects should be submitted in D2L on the due date.

#### ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.



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**COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

**FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).



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#### **INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

#### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

A link to required information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources, can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.