

BEGINNING OJIBWE

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main focus of this course is to give students a solid foundational and mechanical knowledge of the Ojibwe language and to start to develop a basic fluency in the language. The primary method of teaching in the classroom will be Half English and half Ojibwe. By the end of the year, students will have foundation on which to build further study of the Ojibwe language and more understanding on how the Ojibwe language works using grammar.

OJIBWE DIALECT

The variety of Ojibwe we will be focusing on in this course will be SOUTHWESTERN OJIBWE, or SOUTHERN OJIBWE. In other words, it is primarily Minnesota Ojibwe that we will be speaking and learning. This will also be the dialect for exams.

HOMEWORK

Assigned homework is designed to give you practice and to familiarize yourself with the content presented in class. All home work is worth 20 points each and is graded for errors and is due on the following Monday by the end of the day. You must turn in your homework on or before Monday to get credit. Please do not ask me if you can email it to me later. Homework assignments are worth 20 points each for a total of 160 points for each quarter. There will be eight homework assignments for each quarter. Please type your homework with plenty of space to make corrections (Double spaced). Always provide a translation so that I know what you're saying. No hand written assignments! All assignments must be typed. All assignments must be emailed or turned in to me (typed) on or before the due date.

WORKING ON THE LANGUAGE

If fluency is your goal, then you have to make yourself fluent. I cannot do that for you. So, I encourage you to start talking to yourself, and start talking to your friends or family who speak Ojibwe (if you already aren't). Try to use it every day all day. Try to use it in class whenever possible. You may also do your homework together if you want, or study together. In general, try to make connections in class, be inquisitive, ask questions, start thinking in conceptual units or blocks, rather than in "words".

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Try to use as much ojibwe as you can. Please use the following questions or phrases:

1. Aaniin ekidong _____? "How is _____ said?"
2. Aaniin keyaa ge-ikidoyamban "(word or sentence)"? "How would you say (word or sentence)"?
3. Awegonen i'iw? "What is that?"
4. Awegonen o'o? "What is this?"
5. Aaniin ezhinikaadeg i'iw? "What is that called?"
6. Aaniin ezhinikaadeg o'o? "What is this called?"
7. Indaa-wi-zaaga'am ina? "May I go to the bathroom?"
8. Indaa-wi-waabamaa ina (name)? "May I go see (name)?"
9. Indaa-wi-minikwe ina nibi? "May I go drink some water"?
10. Ikidon miinawaa. "Say it again"

You need to be an active learner. Ask questions. Use context to figure out what is being said. If I said a bunch of stuff in Ojibwe that you didn't understand, don't worry about it too much. I'll go back over it in English if I need to. English is not the enemy here. Our absolute insistence that we speak English all the time is the enemy. **We will use it when we need to, but otherwise, your job in class is to try to speak Ojibwe.**

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Cell phones are not allowed in class. You have the rest of the time after school and weekends to play on your phone, school time is time to learn. Just have all respect for teacher and students in class. "Minogiizhwen. Gego majigiizhweken – speak nicely and don't swear"

EXAMS & GRADING

We will have one midterm and one final for each quarter. They are worth 100 points each.

		GRADING SCALE
1st quarter 450 points total		405 – 450 = A (90% - 100%)
Midterm: September 28	100 points	360 – 404 = B (80% - 89%)
Final: October 31	100 points	315 – 359 = C (70% - 79%)
Attendance	90 points	270 – 314 = D (60% - 69%)
8 Homework assignments	160 points total	0 – 269 = F (0% - 59%)
2nd quarter 454 points total		
Midterm: December 12	100 points	409 – 454 = A (90% - 100%)
Final: January 24	100 points	364 – 408 = B (80% - 89%)
Attendance	94 points	318 – 363 = C (70% - 79%)
8 Homework assignments	160 points	274 – 317 = D (60% - 69%)
		0 – 273 = F (0% - 59%)
3rd quarter 448 points total		
Midterm: February 27	100 points	404 – 448 = A (90% - 100%)
Final: March 26	100 points	359 – 403 = B (80% - 89%)
Attendance	88 points	314 – 358 = C (70% - 79%)
8 Homework assignments	160 points	269 – 313 = D (60% - 69%)
		0 – 268 = F (0% - 59%)
4th quarter 448 points total		
Midterm: April 30 th	100 points	404 – 448 = A (90% - 100%)
Final: May 28 th	100 points	359 – 403 = B (80% - 89%)
Attendance	88 points	314 – 358 = C (70% - 79%)
8 Homework assignments	160 points	269 – 313 = D (60% - 69%)
		0 – 268 = F (0% - 59%)
1800 points total for entire school year		
A → 90% - 100%	→ 1620 – 1800 points earned	
B → 80% - 89%	→ 1440 – 1619 points earned	
C → 70% - 79%	→ 1260 – 1439 points earned	
D → 60% - 69%	→ 1080 – 1259 points earned	
F → 0% - 59%	→ 0 – 1079 points earned	