



Western Social Science

Indigenous Studies

INDIGSTU2106A: Introductory Kanyen'keha

Section 200/002 Fall 2026

Prerequisite: 1.0 in any course from Indigenous Studies, or special permission.

Course Description

This course is intended for students with minimal to no language ability in Kanyen'kéha. This course will concentrate on developing student's speaking proficiency of Kanyen'kéha at the novice level. To this end, students will also develop an understanding of the basic grammatical structures of Kanyen'kéha. Since Kanyen'kéha is a verb-based and polysynthetic language, this course will focus primarily on conversation and verb construction in order to provide students with a strong foundation to progress with learning Kanyen'kéha after completing the course. This course will also explore Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) culture, traditions, history and perspective as it relates to language.

Hours: 2.0 lecture hours, 1.0 Tutorial Hours

Antirequisite: None

Prerequisite: 1.0 in any course from Indigenous Studies, or special permission.

Note: Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility. Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Course Format

The primary focus of this course is on student's developing oral and written proficiency in, and basic grammatical understanding of, Kanyen'kéha. Students will develop basic proficiency through modeled speech, verb drills, basic conversation, dialogue, written assignments, and oral examinations. Students are expected to prepare for each class by utilizing strong and consistent language study habits, which will be demonstrated by completing assignments outside of class. Class time will focus on presenting new concepts and features to students and providing students with an opportunity to practice speaking in a positive, supervised environment and receive feedback as necessary.