



DEPARTMENT OF
**Languages,
Literatures and
Cultures (LLCU)**



Beginning Mohawk Language & Culture 1 - MOHK 101
Fall 2020

OnQ
Zoom (link to be provided)
Slack
Quizlet (optional)

Instructor: Thanyehténhas / Nathan Brinklow
nathan.brinklow@queensu.ca

Office Hours: Thursday, 1230-1330
(*always available other times
by appointment*)

www.queensu.ca/llcu
613.533.2072
Kingston Hall, Room 416

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Course Description

Queen's University sits within the traditional territory of the Mohawk Nation. This MOHK 101 course is an introduction to the language and culture of the Kanyen'kehá:ka, the people of the Mohawk Nation. It is especially designed for those who have neither been exposed to Kanyen'kéha, the Mohawk language, nor its traditional societal practices.

Participants will have an opportunity to learn some basic Mohawk language and gain an understanding of the richness of the Mohawk culture and tradition. Topics in Kanyen'keha (language) will include introductions, greetings, counting, colours, weather, and other simple words, and phrases. In the beginning, the focus will be on learning the Mohawk language phonetic sound system. In so doing, participants will acquire the tools to begin reading and writing the Mohawk language.

The cultural component of this Mohawk course will focus on selected traditional teachings, the formation of the Nation's social and ceremonial structures, and impacts upon the Nation from the historical to the contemporary in all areas of its life. This will include examining such topics as the creation story, the clan system, the ceremonial calendar, and some traditional games.

Intended Student Learning Outcomes

To complete this course students will demonstrate their ability to:

1. identify and pronounce Mohawk sounds and sound combinations
2. recite a short version of the Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwen (a ceremonial speech) and present its significance
3. gain an introductory understanding of Mohawk grammar and morphology by working with the language to complete coursework
4. talk about the Mohawk people in a meaningful way, having acquired an initial understanding of Mohawk history, traditions, stories, and contemporary issues facing the Kanyen'kehá:ka

Online Course Delivery

The course will be primarily **asynchronous**, i.e., not live, although there will be opportunities for real-time interaction during weekly reviews and office hours. Weekly content will be provided in OnQ on Monday mornings (0900) and will include language and cultural instruction via videos, audio, narrated slides. The weekly exercises will be available on Monday and are to be submitted before the following Monday.

There will be a **live session** (not mandatory) starting at the scheduled class time on Thursday (1130). There will be no new content delivered during this time, but we will review the weekly language/cultural content and have time for questions. There will also be a group on Slack for class interaction.

Course Outline

The language content will be delivered to build up the students' knowledge beginning with the sound chart, and then moving on to simple words and phrases, before beginning to manipulate them based on person and tense. The Ohén:ton Karihwatékhwen (a Mohawk ceremonial speech – see below) will initially provide a large portion of the

vocabulary. New vocabulary and concepts will be delivered through picture association, vocab lists, dramatic instruction, and other methods as required.

Course Outline (continued)

The cultural content will begin in the beginning by taking time to explore the Mohawk creation story and proceed (more or less) both logically and chronologically to the present day, examining topics such as,

- the clan system
- the ceremonial cycle
- traditional gender roles and responsibilities
- the Peacemaker story and the establishment of the League of Five Nations
- changes after European contact
- the Mohawk experience of war and conflict
- resettlement in Canada
- Mohawk social life
- the traditional agricultural cycle and its impact on the society
- Mohawk Identity in the Canadian Indigenous Context, and
- the contemporary reality of Mohawk life within Canada (and the United States).

Cultural content will be delivered via video lectures, interaction with assigned readings, video/audio resources, and guest speakers. Some of the course content continues into MOHK 102 (Spring 2021).

Textbooks/Readings

There is no required textbook for the class. All required course materials will be provided through OnQ, including worksheets, quizzes, assignment rubrics, etc. Other readings and coursework will be provided as required.

For those students with an interest, the following are recommended authors / books .
Maracle, David Kanatawakhon

Kanatawákhon is from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. He has been the major publisher of dictionaries over the past decade. Anything he has written is worthwhile.

Porter, Tom (Shakokwenionkwas) (2008). And Grandma Said... Iroquois Teachings.
Published Privately by Tom Porter at Kanatsiohareke Mohawk Community, Fonda, NY.

Tom Porter is a widely recognized spiritual leader and teacher. This book is (more or less) a transcription of a number of talks he delivered around 2004 and is presented in a very colloquial style.

Grading Scheme

1. Weekly Exercises - 40%

Students will be provided with weekly exercises through OnQ. These generally consist of 10-20 open-book translation questions based on the material we are studying that week. These exercises will be completed through OnQ during the week they're assigned.

2. Thanksgiving Address (any creative medium) – 20%

26 Oct

Students will prepare a creative presentation of the Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwén ceremonial speech using any creative medium: print, video, journal, poetry, story, cookies, cakes, sewing, knitting, etc. Analog projects can be documented with photographs submitted through OnQ. The project will include a one page (double spaced) description talking about the project, personal motivations, choices, etc.

3. Thanksgiving Address (oral presentation) – 10%

November

Students will present a short version (memorized) of the Thanksgiving Address during scheduled calls with the instructor in November.

4. Mohawk Vocab Quizzes – 2 x 5% each

Week(s) of 05 Oct & 23 Nov

Two closed-book quizzes on vocabulary and grammar concepts learned up to the date of the test. Quizzes consist of matching word-pools, true/false, short answers, etc.

5. Essay on Mohawk Spiritual, Political or Social topic – 20%

18 Dec

Students will submit a short paper (2000 words) on a topic of historical or contemporary interest. The topic may be chosen from anything that has been presented in class or may be chosen from the outside the content of the course by permission of the instructor, so long as it is relevant to the themes of the course (examples include broader themes of language revitalization/reclamation, course themes that might impact other Indigenous peoples, etc.). Additional details will be provided in OnQ.

Grading Method

In this course, some components will be graded using numerical percentage marks. Other components will receive letter grades, which for purposes of calculating your course average will be translated into numerical equivalents using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale (see below). Your course average will then be converted to a final letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale (see below).

*Arts & Science Letter Grade
Input Scheme*

Assignment mark	Numerical value for calculation of final mark
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*Queen's Official Grade
Conversion Scale*

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
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A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
D+	58
D	55
D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

Late Policy

Assignments should be handed in by the start of class on the day they are due. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day and will not generally be accepted beyond 7 days past the date due. Quizzes must be written on the day they are scheduled, except by *prior permission* of the instructor. Students who miss a quiz will not ordinarily be given the opportunity to complete it at a later time, except under exceptional circumstances

Academic Integrity

Queen's students, faculty, administrators and staff all have responsibilities for upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity; honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senate/report-principles-and-priorities>).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments and their behaviour conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), on the Arts and Science website (see <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-integrity>), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Please familiarize yourself with the following resources on avoiding unintentional plagiarism.

- <https://www.queensu.ca/academicintegrity/students/avoiding-plagiarismcheating>
- <https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/academic-writing/avoiding-plagiarism-paraphrasing>
- http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/OPA_paraphrase.html

Copyright of Course Materials

The materials created for and distributed in this course are copyrighted and are for the sole use of students registered in MOHK101. The workbook / text has been created for this class and is still in development, so should not be distributed outside of this class as it is a work in progress.

Accommodation Statement

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for people with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. The Senate Policy for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities was approved at Senate in November 2016 (see <https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.uslclwww/files/files/policies/senateandtrustees/ACADACCOMMPOLICY2016.pdf>). If you are a student with a disability and think you may need academic accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the QSAS website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/>

Academic Considerations for Students in Extenuating Circumstances

Queen's University is committed to providing academic consideration to students experiencing extenuating circumstances that are beyond their control and are interfering with their ability to complete academic requirements related to a course for a short period of time. The Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Students in Extenuating Circumstances is available at <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.uslclwww/files/files/policies/senateandtrustees/Academic%20Considerations%20for%20Extenuating%20Circumstances%20Policy%20Final.pdf>

Each Faculty has developed a protocol to provide a consistent and equitable approach in dealing with requests for academic consideration for students facing extenuating circumstances. Arts and Science undergraduate students can find the Faculty of Arts and Science protocol and the portal where a request can be submitted at: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/accommodations>. Students in other Faculties and Schools who are enrolled in this course should refer to the protocol for their home Faculty.

If you need to request academic consideration for this course, you will be required to provide the name and email address of the instructor/coordinator. Please use the following:

Instructor/Coordinator Name: BRINKLOW, Nathan

Instructor/Coordinator email address: nb81@queensu.ca

Privacy Statement Regarding External Software

This course makes optional use of Quizlet for flashcard and vocabulary delivery. Be aware that the terms of service for this service are external to Queen's University. Your independent use of that site is subject to Quizlet's terms of use and privacy policy and you are encouraged to review these documents at <https://quizlet.com/en-gb/tos> before deciding how to use the site.

This same guidance applies for all other apps or websites that may be suggested as resources for Mohawk language learning, including (but not limited to) YouTube, Facebook groups, firstvoices.com, and kaniyenkeha.net.