

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**COURSE NUMBER /SECTION
FALL 2025
ANTH 4205A/ ANTH 5205A
LANGUAGE, PLACE, AND THE NORTH**

Instructor: Donna Patrick

Office: Loeb C770

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 pm or by appointment

Email: donnapatrick@cunet.carleton.ca

Course meets: Tuesday 2:35-5:25, in-person.

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: Fourth-year standing or permission of the instructor. Also offered at the graduate level, with different requirements, as ANTH 5205, for which additional credit is precluded. Must be enrolled in Graduate Studies or Research.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course investigates the intersection of language with places, spaces, and the environment, with a focus on Indigenous peoples and the Arctic and subarctic regions of Canada. It aims to provide an interdisciplinary perspective drawing on readings from Inuit and from anthropology, anthropological linguistics, Indigenous languages, applied linguistics, geography, environmental studies, and northern studies.

The course objective is to use the lens of people, place, and language in order to critically think and understand the Arctic and the Inuit homelands—regions that have undergone rapid social, political, economic, and environmental transformations, especially in the past few decades. The focus on Inuit and other Indigenous peoples includes an examination of colonial history and resistance and the role of Indigenous languages in defining and transforming cultural, political, geographic and institutional space.

Other course objectives are to provide: (i) an introduction to the analysis of language and social meaning-making practices; (ii) opportunities to critically reflect on history and processes of colonialism; and on language, culture, environment, and institutional practices; (iii) a broad basis from which to further one's understanding of interdisciplinarity and (iv) opportunities to foster skills in synthesizing and analysing academic, visual, multimedia, and policy material related to the topics discussed in this course.

Topics addressed include Indigenous languages, literacies, writing systems, education, and standardization; language ideologies as related to social, linguistic, moral, environmental, and political relationships; place-making and place names; constructions and negotiations of identity and community; cultural and collective knowledge and memory; and the reclamation of linguistic and cultural resources.

INCLUSIVITY

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. There is no tolerance for derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views).

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation (the Algonquin Anishinaabeg). In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and to all Indigenous people residing in the Ottawa area.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Note: You must do a final Presentation (15%) and hand in the Final Take-Home exam (30%) to pass the course. Both of these are requirements that must be completed.

Final grades will be based on students' participation throughout the semester, as well as a series of short individual and group assignments. Students will also have to prepare and write a final essay with accompanying presentation to be delivered at the end of the course.

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Participation	20%	Throughout Semester
Individual Short Assignment	10%	October 3
Group Assignment	20%	November 7
Research Proposal	5%	November 11
Presentation	15%	November 18 & 25
Final Take-Home	30%	December 20

- 1. Participation (20%):** This includes (1) Attending all classes (not attending a class will result in a loss of participation marks); (2) Completing the assigned readings/materials before class. (3) Coming to class prepared to discuss the assigned materials. (4) Presenting one news article (from a reputable source) at the beginning of class (see below). (5) Facilitating and leading a class discussion (see below). **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.**

Each week two or three students will each give a 5-minute summary of a news article that relates to the Arctic that they found from a reputable on-line source (to be clarified in

class). Each student will provide the main points of the news article along with a brief discussion about why this article is important, what are its implications regionally and/or globally, and why you chose to present it (why the article interests you).

Each week, students working in groups, will introduce the readings for each week, with some questions that can open it up for class discussion. At the beginning of the semester, students will, in groups, select a week and divide the readings among members of their group. We will also have an opportunity to sign-up for that week in the class. These 10-minute presentations will not only summarize but will also show thoughtful reflection that engage their colleagues in debate and dialogue about the papers, the issues raised and the relationships between them. Following the short presentations, the group presenting is expected to lead substantive discussions and the relationship of the readings to the overarching course themes.

2. **Individual Assignment (10%):** Assignment to be discussed in class.
3. **Group Assignment (20%):** Assignment to be discussed in class.
4. **Essay Proposal (5%):** Students will submit a proposal outlining their intended essay topic. Further instructions will be available on Brightspace and will be discussed in class.
5. **Preliminary Final Essay Presentation (15%):** Students will share with each other the essence of their research papers *in conference paper-style presentations*. These presentations will be 15 minutes long (which is typically like reading a 7 1/2 page paper) and time will be given for questions and discussion from class mates. Commentary and discussion on these presentations by fellow students should be used to help refine the final written research papers. These presentations will be split over the last two weeks of the course.
6. **Final Take-Home (30%):** Students will be free to choose a research topic that interests them, provided that it takes account of the issues of indigeneity, language, land, knowledge and/or autonomy from the courses' themes. Students should start thinking right away on topics they are highly motivated to investigate and clear their topics with the professor before too much work is done. The final papers will demonstrate a critical understanding of the issues, and will draw linkages across the themes of the course. ANTH 4205 students will have a smaller page requirement than ANTH 5205 students. Details to be discussed in class.

Late Policy

All assignments will be submitted on Brightspace.

Late assignments will be docked 2% /100 per day that the paper is late, unless the professor is contacted BEFORE the due date, with a valid medical or other reason to receive an extension. Extensions are not guaranteed; students must receive professor approval before the due date.

AI Policy

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continues to evolve, students will be required to limit the use of and deeply reflect on and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of AI in class; they must also supply an appendix on these reflections for selected assignments. This reflective component is mandatory and will require honesty, integrity and critique, so that we can ensure that the learning goals for the course are maintained.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

There is one required text for this class, with excerpts from other books and various journal articles, films, podcasts, and other readings. All of these will be read (or watched or listened to) and discussed over the course of the semester. The cost of the required text is \$24.95 plus tax for an online purchase. It is also available in our library (see below).

REQUIRED TEXT:

1. Freeman, Mini Aodla [1978] 2015. *Life among the Qallunaat*. [2015 edition edited by Keavy Martin]. University of Manitoba Press.
 - a. https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_CRL/hgdufh/alma991000519829705153