

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**FALL 2026
ANTH 4205A/ ANTH 5205F
LANGUAGE, PLACE, AND THE NORTH**

Instructor: Donna Patrick

Office: Loeb C770

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

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

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: Fourth-year standing or permission of the instructor. Also offered at the graduate level as ANTH 5205, with different requirements. 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, legal 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.

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 paper in the form of a take home exam, with an accompanying presentation to be delivered at the end of the course.

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Participation	20%	Throughout Semester
Individual Short Assignment	10%	October 2
Group Assignment	20%	November 6
Research Proposal	5%	November 10
Presentation	15%	November 18 & 25
Final Take-Home	30%	December 23

- 1. Participation (20%):** ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. 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) over the course of the term, at the beginning of class (see below). (5) Facilitating and leading a class discussion (see below). (6) Additional recognition for attendance is awarded for visiting the National Art Gallery Inuit Art Exhibit *Qilliniq* (before September 20, 2026). Thursday evenings after 5 pm are free.
<https://www.gallery.ca/whats-on/exhibitions-and-galleries/qillaniq>

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 will open up class discussion. At the beginning of the semester, students will, in groups, select a week and divide the readings among members of their group. You will have an opportunity to sign-up for that week in the class. These 10-minute presentations will not summarize the assigned reading, but they will show thoughtful reflection on key points and arguments made. Student presenters will engage the class in debate and dialogue about the papers, the issues raised, and the relationships between these points. Following the short presentations, the group presenting is expected to lead substantive discussions that link the readings from that week 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. **Research Essay Proposal (5%):** Students will submit a proposal outlining their intended paper topic. Further instructions will be available on Brightspace and will be discussed in class.
5. **Preliminary Final Research Essay Presentation (15%):** Students will share with each other the key points of their research papers *in a short presentation format*. These presentations will be no more 15 minutes long so that adequate time can 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 papers. These presentations will be split over two weeks at the end of the course.
6. **Final Take-Home (30%):** Students will be free to choose research topics that interest them, that take into account of the issues of indigeneity, language, land, knowledge and/or autonomy from the courses' themes. Students should start thinking about their research interests in the first weeks of the class and discuss their topics with the professor. Appointments can be made with the professor to discuss interests. The final take-home assignment 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 and/or emailed to the Professor.

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.

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. There is two required texts 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 books are

\$24.95 plus tax and \$27.95 plus tax, respectively, for online purchases. It is also available in our library (see below).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

2. Freeman, Mini Aodla [1978] 2015. *Life among the Qallunaat*. [2015 edition edited by Keavy Martin]. University of Manitoba Press. \$24.95

https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_CRL/hgdufh/alma991000519829705153

3. Fontaine, Lorena Sekwan. 2025. *Living Language Rights: Constitutional Pathways to Indigenous Language Education*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press. \$27.95

https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991023507152205153&context=L&vid=01OCUL_CRL:CRL_DEFAULT&lang=en&search_scope=NewDiscoveryNetwork&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=OCULDiscoveryNetworkNew&query=any,contains,lorena

NOTE: Readings are subject to change.

Week 1 (September 9)	Introduction to Course
Come prepared to introduce yourself and your areas of research interest. You will have an opportunity to discuss your (1) interests (2) background (3) and your goals for this class. You will also be introduced to class assignments and will sign up for group and individual presentations. <i>Qilliniq</i> : Visit to National Art Gallery September 10 (Free after 5pm)	