

ETST 162

Learning Native American Languages

Tue/Thr 3:30-5:20 PM in Olmsted 1136 (room may change)
five credit hours

Course Registration Number: 35773

ETST 162 has an upper-division standing prerequisite but is open to others with permission. The class is also appropriate for graduate students.

Instructor-facilitator:

Dr. Wesley Y. Leonard (he/him)
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← Wesley learning the myaamia language from a Miami child

The languages you speak are guided by the social situation in which you live. This class creates a social situation for each student to learn to speak a Native American language of their choice by learning from reference materials, and offers a series of lessons, activities, and assignments to make this happen. We will also discuss the social implications of teaching, learning, and speaking Native American languages. As previous students can attest, you can make a lot of progress in just one term.

(Note: Students wishing to learn Cahuilla should take UCR's Cahuilla course sequence, but ETST 162 is appropriate for those wishing to learn any other Native American language. For purposes of this class, "Native American" languages are original languages from North or South America, and the class also allows the study of Hawaiian and other Indigenous languages from places occupied by the United States.)

Course Goals:

- To offer an opportunity to learn to speak a Native American language
- To promote an awareness of language reclamation efforts
- To illustrate the role of language in contemporary Native American communities
- To prepare students to support themselves and others who wish to learn a language

Required Materials:

- Students are required to find their own language learning materials, but the instructor will help and has a large repository of materials used by previous students
- By the second class meeting you must have an adequate dictionary and a reference grammar of the language you will study during the term