

Tsalagi Gawonihisdi 101: Agvyi Ayehli Tsalagi Gawonihisdi Adelogwasdi
Cherokee Language 101: 1st half Cherokee Language

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Nigada Igadadudala
“Everything is connected”

MTR 4:40 pm - 5:30 pm

Instructor: Gil Jackson
Office Hours: By appointment

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I. Rationale/Purpose

The Cherokee language has been spoken for hundreds, if not thousands, of years in western North Carolina by Cherokees as well as their neighbors and friends. Unfortunately, the language is now in danger of disappearing because Cherokee children are no longer learning the language at home. By learning Cherokee, you contribute to revitalizing this unique and important language. This course is one of many efforts to revitalize, maintain, and support the Cherokee language. Cherokee Speaking World will introduce you to the Cherokee language and culture and prepare you for more advanced language study in the future by developing Cherokee speaking and listening skills.

II. Course Aims and Objectives:

In this course students will begin to learn to speak and write Cherokee language in phonetics. This American Indian language is significantly different and complicated from English and other European languages. A full word in Cherokee is equal to a complete English sentence. In English this might include a subject, verb, direct object, indirect object, adjectives, adverbs, dependent clauses, articles, and conjunctions. In Cherokee, all this information is encoded in one long word that we call a word-sentence. For example, dagilwisdanaha = I am working (right now.) All of the parts of this long word work together to create meaning. Another example, Agiyosiha would be “I am hungry now.”

This will enable students to understand what's happening. Students will learn to change the parts of the word-sentence in order to express themselves.

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- introduce themselves in Cherokee language, telling their name, where they live, and who their family members are
- understand and say greetings like Hello, how are you? answer greetings and inquire his/her status.
- carry on a simple conversation like: Are you hungry, are you thirsty, what do you want? and answer those questions.
- make Cherokee word-sentences using first, second and third persons. there will be some opportunities to make sentences that include other people. you will be able to negate sentences.
- make sentences into questions
- you will be introduced to a few object category verbs which describe solids, liquids, flexibles, long/rigids, and animates.
- make sentences in the present tense and command/immediate tense
- learn forty or more verb roots and turn them into word-sentences
- make more complex sentences by adding vocabulary words (nouns and adjectives)

Every lesson includes conversation, speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural information. The curriculum is based on the standards of the American Council for Teaching Foreign Languages.

III. Course Pacing Guide

This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. If changes are made the pacing guide will be updated in a separate document labeled "Pacing Guide" which students can find on canvas.

Week	Content	Homework (Unless otherwise stated, homework always due Fridays by 6:00 pm)
8/26/24	Sounds and Grammar Rules	8/29/24 - Sounds Audio due
9/2/24	Basics	9/6/24 - Classroom Basics Quiz
9/9/24	Numbers Intro Classroom Roles (time keeper and date keeper) Intro Bullet Journal at the beginning of the week	9/10/24 - Written time practice sheet due at the start of class 9/13/24 - Seasons and Months Audio due 9/13/24 - First Bullet Journal Check (Send a picture of your spread along with your audio assignment)
9/16/24	Family	9/20/24 - Family Tree assignment

9/23/24	Introductions	9/27/24 - Introduction Audio
9/30/24 No Class, Field Trip	Field Trip to Cherokee NC (subject to change)	Oct 3rd- Travel Day Oct 4th + 5th - Activities Oct 6th - Travel Day
10/7/24	Colors / Clothing - Plurals Intro Bullet Journal Outfit Log Students Start immediately but first graded week will be 10/14/24 - 10/18/24	10/11/24 - Second Bullet Journal Check 10/11/24 - Fit Check! Flipgrid or Audio Assignment (at teacher's discretion)
10/14/24 No Class Monday	Liking / Wanting / Needing - Negation	10/18/24 - Outfit Log Check for 10/14 - 10/18
10/21/24	Object Categories - Yeligwus	10/25/24 - Outfit Log Check for 10/21 - 10/25 10/25/24 - Object Categories Audio
10/28/24	Emotions Intro Bullet Journal Mood Tracker. Students Start immediately but first graded week will be 11/4 - 11/8	11/1/24 - Outfit Log Check for 10/28-11/1 11/1/24 - Emotions Audio
11/4/24	Body Parts / Hurting	11/8/24 - Outfit Log AND Mood Tracker Check for 11/4 - 11/8 11/8/24 - Third Bullet Journal Check 11/8/24 - Body Parts Audio
11/11/24	Introduction to tenses	11/15/24 - Outfit Log AND Mood Tracker Check for 11/11 - 11/15
11/18/24	Physical Movement	11/18/24 - Outfit Log AND Mood Tracker Check for 11/18 - 11/22
11/25/24	Senses Weather - Yigi - Tense pratice	11/29/24 - Outfit Log AND Mood Tracker Check for 11/25 - 11/29 11/28/24 - Senses Audio 11/29/24 - Weather Audio

12/2/24	Review	Just Review! Self care and get ready for finals!
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IV. Course Materials

Students will have access to a Course Pack on Canvas that will have all of the materials needed for the course. Any extra materials required for the course will also be provided on Canvas. Additional resources that may be helpful are listed below.

Acceptable Online Cherokee Language Resources

Cherokee Nation Word List (Tsalagi Ayehli Dikaneisdi):

<http://www.cherokee.org/About-The-Nation/Cherokee-Language/Dikaneisdi-Word-List>

Cherokee English Dictionary Online Database:

<http://cherokeedictionary.net/?noresults=true>

Optional Additional Text (order or purchase on your own)

Feeling, Durbin. 1975. *The Cherokee-English Dictionary*. Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

Mountgomery-Anderson, Brad. 2015. *Cherokee Reference Grammar*. University of Oklahoma Press

V. Expectations

Classroom rules:

Arrive on time and ready to try.

Electronics are permitted for the purpose of taking notes only. Please be respectful and turn off your ringer and make sure your electronics do not become a distraction.

Take notes with a notebook and a writing utensil.

Respect your instructors and fellow classmates - this means racism, homophobia, transphobia (including misgendering others through pronouns), and other discriminatory behavior will not be tolerated.

Communication:

It's expected that you will engage in clear communication with Gil and the TA. Your health and safety will be prioritized in learning the Cherokee language so please do not hesitate to communicate with Gil about individual circumstances that are impacting your distance learning. We will be able to make the course flexible to these challenges.

Auditing: Students auditing the course are expected to complete the same work as students and purchase any books/materials required for the course.

Duyuk'dv'i and Gadugi:

There are certain values the Anigiduwagi people hold dear and encourage every generation, new and old, to live by due to their importance and meaning. Two of the values we would like to emphasize in this textbook are Duyuk'dv'i and Gadugi. These words do not translate directly into the English language due to the lack of a word that carries the same weight and importance. Duyuk'dv'i embodies the values of self identity, place in community, and connection. Duyuk'dv'i is our individual right to live freely and pursue anything that we desire, that can only be obtained once we understand our connection to humans, insects, animals, the Creator and all of their Creations. Duyuk'dv'i connects us, tethering all life together, but does not constrict us. In fact, once we understand our connection to everything and the right way to live with all life and creation then we will be on the right path, and be truly free. Gadugi is a word that further describes the role of each individual within a community, it is up to each individual to actively help each other and make sure everyone and everything is taken care of. It is important that these two values are understood and utilized when learning the language, the Kituwah language while comprised of different dialects with different variations among the three tribes and their communities it is still the same language and learning to understand and use the language connects the learner to the greater community, and to the Anigiduwagi people by understanding Duyuk'dv'i you will understand importance of learning the language. It is also important to understand that learning a language is difficult, but not a single learner is alone and it is our duty to help each other. Gadugi tells us not one can succeed unless everyone works together, and that is true in learning the language.

VI. Grading Procedures.

Class Participation (Attendance and Classwork)	40%
Homework Assignments	35%
20% - Audio Assignments	
15% - Bullet Journal	
Quizzes	10%
Final.	15%

Formative Assessments. Quizzes are worth 10% of your grade. These are intended to help you study and self assess your performance in the class. They will also be used to inform the professor and tutor what concepts students may be struggling with.

If you are struggling please reach out to the TA and/or the professor as soon as possible! We are always happy to help and are accessible through email and our phone numbers, which are provided at the top of the syllabus. If you cannot attend the official tutoring hours or would prefer a one-on-one session, Tessa is absolutely willing to work with you and set up individual tutoring sessions at alternative times.

The Syllabus is subject to change. Adjustments may be made to adapt to what students need more help with. The Google Doc will be updated with any changes to the schedule. If anything is unclear, please email the TA or the professor.

Academic Policies can be found in the [Student Handbook](#)