

**NS171**  
**Introductory Cree**  
**6 credits**

Instructor: TBA

Original Developer: Clint Chocan

Current Developer: Clint Chocan

Reviewer: Dr. Kevin Lewis

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2602 - 59 Avenue, Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada T9V 3N7. Ph: 780 871 5700  
5707 College Drive, Vermilion, Alberta, Canada T9X 1K5. Ph: 780 853 8400  
Toll-free in Canada: 1 800 661 6490



## NS171 Version: 1



## Introductory Cree

### Calendar Description

This Cree Language course is for the beginning Cree speaker at an introductory level. The course introduces students to the Plains Cree (Y dialect) vocabulary, and provides instruction to develop word and sentence building skills for conversation. The course components consist of four areas needed for cultural and language understanding; these include consonant and vowel sounds, vocabulary, research and linguistic theory.

### Rationale

This course is for anyone requiring or wanting to learn the Cree Language. It consists of basic oral and written instruction to be able to develop conversation, dialogue and understanding.

### Prerequisites

None

### Co-Requisites

None

### Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. communicate, write, and have a better understanding of the Indigenous holistic worldview of “*nēhiyawēwak*”, the Cree people.
2. build words and create sentences with meaning.
3. use the foundational structure and sound system of the Cree Language.
4. speak and create basic dialogue for conversation.

## Resource Materials

### **Required Textbook(s):**

Ratt, S. (2016). *mâci-nêhiyawêwin - Beginning Cree* (1st ed.). Regina: University of Regina Press.

### **Reference Textbook(s):**

Okimāsis, Jean L., Cree, Language of the Plains = nêhiyawêwin, paskwāwi-pīkiskwêwin / Jean L. Okimāsis.—New edition.

Wolvengrey, A. (2001). *nêhiyawêwin: itwêwina*, Canadian Plains Research Center, Regina, Saskatchewan.

Ratt, S. (2016). *mâci-nêhiyawêwin - Beginning Cree* (1st ed.). Regina: University of Regina Press.

### **Materials:**

Lakeland College handbook on Basic Cree, Introductory Cree for the Beginner.

Recording of past Elders in Onion Lake, Saskatchewan. <https://ourspace.uregina.ca>

Handouts to be provided by the instructor.

## Conduct of Course

This course consists of 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of tutorial per week.

## Evaluation Procedures

Quizzes -- Summative (6)	30%
Class Projects (2 Projects)	20%
Participation/Oral Presentation -- Diagnostic	5%
Midterm Exam -- Summative	20%
Final Exam -- Summative	25%
Total	100%

Lakeland College is committed to the highest academic standards. Students are expected to be familiar with Lakeland College policies related to academic conduct and academic honesty and to abide by these policies. Violations of these policies are considered to be serious and may result in suspension or expulsion from the College.

## Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

*A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.*

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

**Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.**

## Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for success in any course. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of completing course work and assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor. Poor attendance may result in the termination of a student from a course(s).

If you do not meet the established attendance requirements, your instructor will recommend that the Registrar withdraw you from the course. A failing grade of RW (Required to Withdraw) will appear on your transcript.

In cases of repeated absences due to illness, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate.

*Instructors have the authority to require attendance at classes.*

## Course Units/Topics

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the content of these week's units may be amended occasionally.

Week 1: Overview of the course, course policies, understanding spirituality, oral tradition and protocols, traditional education system.

Week 2: The Algonquian languages and regions, Cree language dialects in the local regions, Indigenous groups and language in Canada, local Indigenous languages within Treat 6 territory.

Week 3: Origin of words, contextual meaning, standard Roman Orthography, Syllabics, and Cree sounds, blends and charts.

**Project 1 - Introduction of Contextual Meaning Group Project (10%).** Due in week 12. Groups will choose any English song (to be approved by Instructor) and translate it into the closest Cree Language translation. The purpose of this project is to develop the understanding of contextual meaning within Cree language. Students must research their translation from English to Cree with proper meaning. Students will find and understand that most words will not literally translate from English to the Cree Language. If assistance is needed, groups will practice their knowledge of offering protocol (explained in week one) to any Cree speaker, Elder, Holder of Ceremony, Cultural Advisor, or Knowledge Keeper. (Example: Emma Stevens - Blackbird by the Beatles sung in Mi'Kmaq. Link to youtube video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99-LoEkAA3w>).

### Summative Quiz 1.

Week 4: Review (week 3), introduction to animate and inanimate streams, determiners, demonstrative pronouns, interrogative pronouns, total physical response, typology, theoretical terminology.

Week 5: Review (week 3 and 4), animate nouns - grammatical gender terms, immediate family, pluralizing, diminutives, locatives, and possessive paradigms.

Week 6: Review (weeks 3-5), inanimate nouns - parts of the head/body, pluralizing, diminutives, locative, possessives and possessive paradigms.

### Summative Quiz 2

Week 7: Review (weeks 5-6), imperatives (verbs), suffixes; pluralizing "-k", inclusive "-tān", diminutive "-sis", prefixes/preverbs "-pē-", "-nitawi-", "-māci-", "-kīsi-", "-kwāci-" (preposition), common expressions/terms (conjunctives).

Week 8: Review (week 7), animate/inanimate nouns - animals, household objects, pluralization, diminutives, locatives, possessive paradigms.

Week 9: Review (week 7-8), terms on the geography, land weather, location. Buildings and structures, interrogative adjectives/pronouns, inquisitive terminology.

### Summative Quiz 3

Week 10: Review (weeks 7-9), circumfixes interrogative verb paradigms; 1<sup>st</sup> person - "ē+yān", 2<sup>nd</sup> person - "ē+yin", 3<sup>rd</sup> person - "-t", 1<sup>st</sup> person incl. "ya", 1<sup>st</sup> person - excl. "yā", 2<sup>nd</sup> person pl. - yēk, 3<sup>rd</sup> person pl. cik". Preverbs - verbs - suffixes, sentence structure, additional prefixes/preverbs.

Week 11: Review, interrogative verb paradigms circumfixes "ni", "ki", "- n", "w", "nān", "naw", "nāwāw", "wak", preverbs (prefixes) - imperative verb - suffix, sentence structure and building, additional prefixes/preverbs.

Week 12: Oral presentations - A 7 - 10 minute oral presentation on the Contextual Meaning Project (Project 2 see Appendix A) (Participation 5 %) assigned in week 12. Students to share on smart-board and share their findings on how they decided on the words and phrases used. Option to perform song.

Week 13: Oral presentations (continued) - A 7 - 10 minute oral presentation on the **Contextual Meaning Project** (Participation 5%) assigned in week 12. Students to share on smart-board and share their findings on how they decided on the words and phrases used. Option to perform song.

Week 14: Midterm exam.

Week 15: Animate and inanimate streams, determiners, demonstrative pronouns review, total physical response, typology, theoretical terminology.

**Project 2. Contextual Meaning Group Project (10%). Due in week 25. Groups will translate 5 minutes of 1973 audio recordings of Elders from the Onion Lake First Nation. If assistance is needed, groups will practice their knowledge of offering protocol (explained in week one) to either an Elder, Holder of Ceremony, Cultural Advisor, Knowledge Keeper or an individual with know in Cree Language/Cree speaker.**

Week 16: Animate nouns review (week 5 - 6), grammatical gender terms, immediate family, animals, pluralizing, diminutives, locatives and possessive paradigms

Week 17: Imperatives review (week 7)(verbs), suffixes plural "k", inclusive inclusive "tān", diminutive "si" additional prefixes/preverbs (similar to prepositions in Eng.), common expressions/terms (similar to conjunctives in Eng.).

#### **Summative Quiz 4.**

Week 18: Review (weeks 10 - 11), tense indicator "wī", "kī", circumfixes interrogative verb possessive paradigms circumfixes "ē – yān", "yin", "t", "ya", "yā", "yēk", "cik", prefixes/preverbs - verbs - suffix, sentence structure.

Week 19: Review (week 18), tense indicator "ka", "kā", circumfixes interrogative verb possessive paradigms "ni", "ki", suffixes – "n", "w", "nān", "naw", "nāwāw", "wak", preverbs - imperative verb - suffix, sentence structure and building.

Week 20: Review (week 5), animate nouns - kinship terminology, pluralizing, diminutives, locatives, and possessive paradigms. Terminology with time - calendar, days of the week, etc.

### Summative Quiz 5.

Week 21: Review (weeks 18 - 19), intransitive inanimate verb, possessive paradigms, prefixes/preverbs - verbs - suffix, sentence.

Week 22: Review (weeks 10 - 11), intransitive animate verb, possessive paradigms, prefixes/preverbs - verbs - suffix, sentence.

Week 23: Review (week 9), animate/inanimate objects - Cree numerical system and currency, dialogue, conversation. Additional pluralizing, diminutives, and possessive paradigm exercises.

### Summative Quiz 6.

Week 24: Review (weeks 10 - 12), tense indicator "ka", "kā", circumfixes, interrogative verb, possessive paradigms circumfixes "ē – yān", "yin", "t", "ya", "yā", "yēk", "cik", prefixes/preverbs - verbs - suffix, sentence structure.

Week 25: Review (week 18), tense indicator "ka", "kā", circumfixes, interrogative verb, possessive paradigms circumfixes "ni", "ki", - "n", "w", "nān", "naw", "nāwāw", "wak", preverbs - imperative verb - suffix, sentence structure and building.

Week 26: Terminology and understanding of the Teepee Teachings - Virtues and Beliefs. Additional Syllabics.

Week 27: Review.

Week 28: Final exam.



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