

## LIN 4930/6571: Structure of Algonquian

**Meeting time:** MWF 4<sup>th</sup> period (10:40-11:30 am)

**Meeting location:** LIT0235

**Course's CANVAS site:** <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/515847>

**Instructor:** Dr. Marcin Dadan

**Office:** TBA

**Office hours** (in person & Zoom): Tue: 4:05-4:55 pm (P9), Wed: 1:55-2:30 pm (P7), Thu: 4:05-4:55 pm (P9) & by appointment.

**e-mail:** [marcin.dadan@ufl.edu](mailto:marcin.dadan@ufl.edu)



Figure: Traditional classification of Algic languages as in Oxford 2024:931.

### Course description

This course introduces the structure of languages within the Algonquian family, including Meskwaki, Cree, Ojibwe, Mi'kmaq, Passamaquoddy, and Blackfoot, known for their intriguing morphosyntax. We will explore their phonology, morphology, syntax, discourse-driven properties, and socio-cultural aspects. By examining some of their most characteristic and typologically unusual grammatical features—such as direct-inverse marking, person hierarchies, obviation, direct and conjunct orders, relative roots, and stem derivations—we will address various approaches to polysynthetic and non-configurational languages, with their word order flexibility and the availability of discontinuous constituents. We will touch upon the history of these languages, their writing systems, language contact phenomena (including Michif and Plains Indian Sign Language), as well as aspects of language acquisition and revitalization efforts.

### Objectives

- To gain familiarity and understanding of the structural features of languages within the Algonquian family and broader, within the indigenous North American languages.
- To gain familiarity with some issues and discussions of the morphosyntax of polysynthetic and non-configurational languages.
- To identify aspects of grammar of Algonquian languages pertinent to linguistic typology and linguistic theories.
- To be able to analyze various aspects of Algonquian grammatical structure, ranging from typical phonological processes to aspects of morphology and syntax
- To gain experience and practice in presenting oral and written arguments about analysis of a linguistic structure.

### Course Prerequisites

LIN3010 (Introduction to Linguistics) or equivalent.

### Course materials

There is no textbook. All required readings will be available on Canvas (see the schedule for the dates and the papers to be read). Make sure to read all the assigned papers and come to class prepared. This will immensely help you to get the most out of this course. It's important to know in advance what you find confusing so that you can ask and get clarification, but also actively participate in our classes and help others learn.

You will also get access to many Algonquian grammars, dictionaries, and additional papers, as well as Algonquian glossary and bibliography. All these materials will be posted on Canvas.

### Course requirements & Grades:

1. **Attendance & Participation: 10%**
2. **Short Papers & Datasets (4): 40%**
3. **Presentation: 20%**
4. **Final Project/Paper: 30%**

**The assignment of a final letter grade will be based on the following scale, recommended by CLAS.** (You can find more on UF grading policies here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

A	90-100	B	80-83	C	70-73	D	60-63
A-	87-89	B-	77-79	C-	67-69	D-	57-59
B+	84-86	C+	74-76	D+	64-66	E	56 and below

### Attendance & Participation:

It is essential that you attend all the classes and actively participate in our discussions. Hence, the attendance is obligatory (5% of the grade). You can miss up three classes to get the full attendance credit. If you miss more than 3 classes, you get 0% for attendance. You will also get a credit for participation (5% out of 10%). The participation component is intended to help you stay engaged and to find a good way to learn. We all learn only if the material is meaningful to us. Don't hesitate to ask questions if you feel lost. I will adjust the pace of the classes to our needs, and I can spend

more time on some particular parts of the material if necessary (or if you are particularly interested to dig deeper). Our schedule is primarily just our guideline and I'm quite flexible.

*See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>*

**Homework (Short Papers & Datasets):**

There will be four short assignments based on readings and datasets. You can collaborate on each assignment, but each student should submit their write up individually. These assignments will be based on provided datasets and papers. I will say more about each assignment once the course starts. See the deadlines for the papers in the schedule. Any assignments handed in after the due date will be penalized 10%. **No assignments will be accepted more than two days past the due date, unless you have discussed it with me.**

**Presentation:**

Each student will choose a paper (or a phenomenon) connected to some aspect of Algonquian and deliver 15-20 min. presentation based on it. The presentation should involve a handout or slides and discussion questions for other students. We will decide on the dates of each presentation together, depending on how it fits the material we are currently covering. You will get the assessment criteria of the presentation on Canvas. Please schedule an appointment with me once you have selected your paper/topic so that we can discuss the best way to present the topic.

**Final Project/Paper:**

Each **graduate student** will write a paper (10-12 pages double-spaced) discussing some aspect of Algonquian. This could be a comparison and analysis of a grammatical construction in two Algonquian languages or in Algonquian and a representative some other language family (e.g., Indo-European, Mayan, etc.), e.g., an account of similarities and differences of Algonquian and Japanese-style scrambling, Slavic Left-Branch Extraction, etc., but the topics not directly dealing with the grammar (e.g., discussing revitalization, education, socio-cultural issues, etc.) are also welcome. I will meet with each of you to discuss your ideas. **Undergraduate students** may also choose a paper (individual or a collab) or a group/pair project on some aspect of Algonquian language or culture. All ideas for projects and papers should be discussed and approved by me by the 12<sup>th</sup> week of the course. You will get some more information about the final projects assessment later.

**Tentative Schedule v.1 (Subject to change; see [CANVAS](#) the latest version)**

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings	Work/Due
1	Fri, 08/22	Intro to Algonquian language family	Oxford 2021; Goddard 1984.	
2	Mon, 08/26, Wed, 08/28 & Fri, 08/30	Polysynthesis, Words & Categories	Mithun 1999; Hieber 2024; Carnie Ch18; Baker 2003 Ch4.	

3	Wed, 09/04 & Fri, 09/06	History	Mithun 2024; Goddard 1975; Oxford 2016; Macaulay & Salmons 2017.	
4	Mon, 09/09, Wed, 09/11 & Fri, 09/13	VP Structure	Hirose 2003 Ch1&3; Dahlstrom MS Ch 6&7; Ritter & Rosen 2010; Goddard 1988, 1990.	<b>HW1 DUE: SUN, 09/15</b>
5	Mon, 09/16, Wed, 09/18 & Fri, 09/20	VP continued	Tollan & Oxford 2018; Pentland 2005.	
6	Mon, 09/23, Wed, 09/25 & Fri, 09/27	NP Structure & Gender	Dahlstrom 1995; Anderson 1997; Dahlstrom Ms Ch3; Thomason 2005; Bliss 2012.	.
7	Mon, 09/30, Wed, 10/02 & Fri, 10/04	Person Hierarchies & Direct- Inverse	Lockwood & Macaulay 2012; Dahlstrom Ms Ch10; Oxford 2016; Bruening 2005, 2009; Oxford 2022; Brittain 1999/2001 Ch2.	<b>HW2 DUE: SUN, 10/06</b>
8	Mon, 10/07, Wed, 10/09 & Fri, 10/11	Agreement & Licensing	Bejar & Rezac 2009 (fr.); Oxford 2022 (Probe specification); McGinnis 1999; Oxford 2021 (An illusory subject preference squib).	
9	Mon, 10/14, Wed, 10/16  (Fri, 10/18)	Discourse, Obviation, Poetics  HOMECOMING	Dahlstrom 2017, 2015a; Bliss 2005, 2017.	

10	Mon, 10/21, Wed, 10/23 & Fri, 10/25	Clausal Syntax, IC, Subordination	Dahlstrom 2024, Ms Ch5; Déchaine & Wiltschko 2010; Richards 2014; Bogomolets et al. 2023.	
11	Mon, 10/28 & Wed, 10/30  Fri, 11/01	Pragmatics, Semantics, Quantification  Wh-questions & A'- movement	Mathewson 2017; Russel & Reinholtz 1995; Cyr 1991, Rhodes 1985; Rice 2024; Bruening 2001 Ch4.  Lochbihler & Mathieu 2010, 2013; Oxford 2009; Blain 1997 Ch3.	<b>HW3 DUE: SUN, 11/03</b>
12	Mon, 11/04, Wed, 11/06 & Fri, 11/08	(Non-)Configurationality	Bliss 2017, Hale 1989; Baker 2003; Bruening 2001 Ch2; Hamilton 2015.	
13	Wed, 11/13 & Fri, 11/15	(Non-)Configurationality Contd.	Reinholtz 1999; Goddard & Dahlstrom 2015.	
14	Mon, 11/18 & Wed, 11/20  Fri, 11/22	Language Contact  Non-Verbal Communication & Native American Signed Languages	Thomason 2024; Rosen 2024; Bakker 1990; Papen 1987.  Silver & Miller 1997 Ch7; Davies 2017.	<b>HW4 DUE: SUN, 11/24</b>
15	<b>11/25-12/01</b>	<b>HOLIDAY</b>		
16	Mon, 12/02 & Wed, 12/04  (Fri, 12/06)	Acquisition & Revitalization  Reading Days	Chee & Henke 2024; Brittain & Rose 2021; Chew, Leonard & Rosenblum 2024; Sarkar & Metallic 2009.	
17	<b>Final Paper/Project Due</b>			<b>DUE: Wed,12/11</b>

### **Academic Honesty**

Cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic misconduct have no place here and won't be tolerated. Committing such an act will result in a report to the Dean of Students and an E for the course. If you have any question about what does and do not count as an act of academic misconduct, please consult the University Honor Code below and talk with your instructor.  
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

### **Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Recording Policy**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action

instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

*GatorWell Health Promotion Services:* For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

## ACADEMIC RESOURCES

*E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

*Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

*Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email [ask@ufl.libanswers.com](mailto:ask@ufl.libanswers.com) for more information.

*Teaching Center:* 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

*Writing Studio:* Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

*Academic Complaints:* Office of the Ombuds; Visit the [Complaint Portal webpage](#) for more information.

Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.](#)