



Colang 2016 Workshop Syllabus

Using Ethnography in Language Documentation and Revitalization

Instructors:

Sarah Shulist (MacEwan University): shulists@macewan.ca

Faun Rice (University of Alberta): faun@ualberta.ca

Course materials: Provided in class

Supplies needed: Laptop, if available, or notebook and pen.

Course goals:

This workshop will focus on training participants to use ethnographic methodologies in the development and implementation of projects for both language documentation and revitalization. The target audience includes community linguists and academic linguists with an intermediate to advanced level of knowledge about language programs, but without any extensive training in anthropology and ethnography. The goal is to provide this group of language activists with an additional set of tools for use in enhancing the efficacy and comprehensiveness of their documentary and revitalization work.

Student learning objectives: Students will learn to apply four key content areas to their own work: Ethnography and Language Documentation, Social Roles and Position of the Researcher, Genre and Language Documentation, and Policy and Institutional Context.

Instructional methods:

The primary method of teaching will be through consideration of hands-on examples and case studies. These will be drawn from experiences and observations from the instructors' two main field sites (Rice's in Déline, Northwest Territories, Canada, and Shulist's in the Northwest Amazon of Brazil), as well as from both instructors' consultation with community linguists who have attended the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute run by the University of Alberta. Supplementary materials will draw from ethnographic and linguistic literature, as well as case studies drawn from other fieldworkers at the intersection of ethnography and language documentation and revitalization, predominantly in North and South America.

Evaluation: Workshops will be Pass/Fail. Full attendance is required for a pass in any workshop.

Students will produce a small portfolio, consisting of the series of reflections and assignments pursued

in each of the four workshop sessions. The reflections will be based on the following content areas as applied to each student's own research: language ideologies, position and social roles, ethnographic data and metadata, and political or institutional contexts. We will evaluate the portfolio's success by examining (a) completeness, (b) demonstration of strong and thorough analysis, and (c) effective application to the student's own work or research.

Disabilities services: The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. The instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.