

# Tohono O'odham Community College



## Syllabus: *THO106: Conversational Tohono O'odham*

"T-Himdag O Wud T-Gewkdag" ("Our O'odham Way of Life is Our Strength") – This Way of Life taught to us by I'ittoi that we may thrive. T-duakag 'o wud 'ep si has ha'icu. Cem hekid 'ac 'ab 'i-he:kculid g T-Na:tokam mo 'ab hema 'i-ep t-mamka g Taß. Am 'ac 'ep cem si t-nankog matt si s-ap o ñukud g t-duakag cem hekid.

### Course Information

Course Prefix/Number: **THO106.1**  
 Semester: **Spring 2018**  
 Class Days/Times: **Tuesdays only**  
**4:40pm – 8:00pm**

Credit Hours: **4.0**  
 Course Title: **Conversational Tohono O'odham**  
 Room: **San Xavier Recreation Center:**  
**Game Room**

**Instructor Information:**  
 Name: **Andrea Ramon**

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 Office location: **None**  
 Office hours: **By appointment**

### Course Description:

This course focuses on real-life conversational verbal and non-verbal O'odham communication skill development in listening, comprehension, and speaking emphasizing pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, functional formal and informal phrases used in daily speech for basic interpersonal communication within different situations. It also provides an introduction to the O'odham language structure, history, changes, dialects, cultural practices and perspectives while practicing different types of O'odham communication.

### Course Objectives:

#### Students will be introduced to:

- Key and basic O'odham concepts, terms, words, and phrases related to the Tohono O'odham language in the areas of listening and speaking.
- The basics of Tohono O'odham Himdag as it relates to the Tohono O'odham language of listening and speaking.
- General and public Tohono O'odham cultural traditions, practices, celebrations, and events.
- T-Şoşon and its role in the O'odham language, history, and culture.
- T-Himdag and its role in the O'odham language, history, and cultural daily practices.
- O'odham world-view and lunar calendar.

#### During and upon the completion of this course students will be able to:

By the end of the semester, students who have successfully completed all activities and requirements, will be able to engage in and participate in the following tasks in the O'odham language to the best of their ability:

#### 1. Listening and speaking skills:

- a. Use formal and informal basic greetings and leave-takings with others.
- b. Introduce themselves and identify their nuclear, maternal and paternal family, and others.
- c. Recall, identify, and name Tohono O'odham districts and O'odham communities in the O'odham speaking world.
- d. Ask, answer questions, and express basic emotions, needs, and wants at home, work, school, and/or O'odham gathering.
- e. Identify and describe self, family, friends, and others.
- f. Ask, answer, and give basic directions, questions, and commands at home, work, school, and/or O'odham gathering.
- g. Verbally and/or non-verbally respond to basic questions and commands.

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- h. Ask and answer questions about the seasons and weather.
  - i. Use and apply appropriate phrases for different situations.
  - j. Recall, use, and apply colors, numbers, currency, days of the week, and lunar & seasonal cycles.
  - k. Sing an O'odham song(s).
- 2. Reading and Writing skills:**
- a. Minimal requirements as this is a conversational class focused on speaking, verbal and non-verbal communication and conversational cues.
- 3. Cultural Competency:**
- a. T-So:son and their role in O'odham language, history and cultural shifts and transitions.
  - b. Basic historical and cultural events of the Tohono O'odham.
  - c. Identify and translate place names, Tohono O'odham districts, and O'odham communities in the O'odham speaking world.
  - d. Recall in English the meanings and general history of various place names.
  - e. Describe basic facts about their geography and cultural landmarks.
  - f. Recognize dialect differences.
  - g. Recognize some of the cultural O'odham activities and "notable" O'odham citizens.
  - h. Summarize in English, the value of learning, knowing, using, and sustaining the O'odham language and Himdag.

## Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) :

- Tohono O'odham Himdag c N̄iokĩ is at the core of being Tohono O'odham.
- Tohono O'odham language, history and culture is alive.
- Tohono O'odham history and culture identifies the O'odham as unique and strong.
- Distinguish and recognize aspects of the Tohono O'odham language that have been influenced, modified, and/or introduced in contemporary O'odham conversational use.
- T-So:son plays a major role in O'odham, language, history and culture.
- T-O'odham Himdag c N̄iokĩ is at the core of being Tohono O'odham → T-Şoşon:
  - o T-Wohocuda (Our Beliefs)
  - o T-Aperdag (Our Well-Being)
  - o T-Pi:k Elida (Our Deepest Respect)
  - o I-We:mta (Working Together)

## Course Structure:

To develop O'odham language conversational fluency, students are immersed and expected to actively participate in O'odham language immersion real-life, situational, experiential, and drama role-playing, games, exercises, activities, and presentations/demonstrations ranging from individual, pair, and groups.

For each language lesson, I go through each stage to ensure student learning, practice, and on to the point they demonstrate what they've learned with continuous assessment throughout:

- Set up situational scenario.
- Introduce language / topic.
- Demonstrate while students observe and listen.
- Guided practice with students to reinforce learning.
- Students demonstrate with my guidance.
- Students demonstrate independently what they've learned with my guidance.
- Students demonstrate independently what they've learned.
- Students are allowed to recorder at a given time for them to practice with.
- I record students and together we review progress and see what they need to practice.
- I also provide various videos for students to view and practice with.

## Materials:

- Mini-digital recorder
- 3 x 5 Index cards
- Large butcher paper
- White paper
- Pencils, colored pencils, crayons and/or markers.

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<b>Evaluation and Grading &amp; Assignments:</b>		
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Attendance (16 class days)</b> (Considered ABSENT if 20min. late and/or leave class 20min. early) *Since this class is once a week, it is considered two class periods. Attendance, active participation, and practice, practice, practice, practice is key. Therefore, cell phone use is NOT tolerated during class time. The class is dynamic, progressive, and evolves – attendance is mandatory.	<b>5 pts.</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Homework and In-Class Participation</b> Active listening, observing, active participation, and presentations/demonstrations – individually, with a partner, and/or group. Being prepared, bringing required materials to class, using what you learned in class by speaking O'odham as much as you can in class and following through with assignments. As well as, and making an effort to use what you learned in class with familial and/or non-familial O'odham speakers outside of class.	<i>Points vary</i>	<b>120</b>
<b>Weekly Mini-Presentations (10)</b>	<b>20 pts.</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Mid-term: I:mig (Kinship) Chart and Presentation (Tuesday, March 6, 2018)</b>	<b>100 pts.</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Final Presentation and Demonstration (Tuesday, May 8, 2018)</b>	<b>200 pts.</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Grading Scale:</b> <b>A 750 – 800</b> <b>B 700 – 749</b> <b>C 650 – 699</b> <b>D 600 – 649</b> <b>F Below 599</b>		

## **Himdag Cultural Component:**

This class integrates the Tohono O'odham himdag in its essence, the Tohono O'odham epistemology in which world-view, culture, way of life, and values are encompassed. The T-Soson (Our Core) and its four components: T-Wohocudadag (Our Beliefs), T-Apedag (Our Well-Being), T-Pi:k Elida (Our Deepest Respect), and I-We:mta (Working Together) are addressed throughout as they are an integrate part of the Tohono O'odham language, history, and culture.

### **Key points are especially followed:**

- Respect self and others' willingness to learn, practice, and make mistakes.
- Recording of any kind is for the purpose of learning and practicing, NOT to share on social media of any kind.
- Learning is FUN and laughter is welcome when you are laughing WITH others, not at others.
- Undivided attention, participation, and cooperation helps language learning – cell phones and other electronic devices are off during class times.
- Be prepared for class by having your materials and/or homework ready – it allows the class to keep progressing.

## **Important Dates**

- Tuesday, January 16, 2018: 1<sup>st</sup> day of class
- Tuesday, March 6, 2018: Mid-Term Presentations
- Monday, March 12 – 16, 2018: TOCC Spring Break – No classes
- Tuesday, May 7, 2018: Final Presentations

**Policies and expectations- minimally:** See TOCC student handbook for policies regarding the following: attendance, participation, tardiness, academic integrity/plagiarism, absences, missed homework or exams, late assignments, student behavior, official ADA statement, and any other policies that address student expectations for any course.

- **Students are expected to be on time. If a student is tardy or absent, it is their responsibility to attain class information on their own.**
- **Use of electronic devices are NOT allowed during class time unless permitted by the instructor for recording purposes only.**

**DISCLAIMER:** This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.