

**American Indian Languages Development Institute
University of Arizona**

Language Survey Data Management

Instructors: Tyler Peterson (tylerpeterson@email.arizona.edu)
Rolando Coto (rcoto@email.arizona.edu)

Schedule: 8:00 am – 3 pm (MTW)
Location: Room 331 (Education bldg)

Course description and objectives: All Native American languages are endangered, although they vary considerably in terms of 'vitality,' that is, who, how and where the languages are in use. Currently, there is no systematic assessment of the Native American languages of the United States and their vitality. In this summer course will review existing assessment tools and survey methodologies with the goal of enabling participants to create new and innovative assessment tools that address this need. As a way of addressing this gap, we will train ourselves in the practical (and technical skills) needed for the development and implementation of language surveys, the management of language survey data, and the interpretation of these data. There are four main areas that we will be covering in this course:

- Surveys and assessment, etc.
- Survey structure (questions, sampling, etc)
- Survey collection (electronic methods, databases, etc.)
- Survey processing (reports, graphics, maps, etc.)

In addition to building our capacities in these areas, by the end of this course you will have a functioning survey that you can further revise and then take home and implement in your community. Because we will be using both online and offline technology, you should have a functioning computer and access to the internet off campus. Please speak to one of the instructors if you have any concerns or issues.

We assume that you are familiar with how to use a computer; however, we have a policy in this course of not leaving anyone behind! As such, if you feel that your computer skills may not be adequate, please let us know - we're here to help! Also, we do not assume any (technical) prior experience with survey applications or software.



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Topics, Tasks, and Activities

Week 1: Survey structure

June 6 Introductions. Big questions (e.g. discussion of who “speaks” the language) and how to collect relevant information; purpose of surveys, types of questions.

Assignment: Complete the Google survey administered by the instructors

June 7 More on “big questions”. Assessment. Data confidentiality. IRBs. Thinking about what kinds of questions are relevant to your communities needs.

Assignment: Draft the first version of questions

June 8 Guests in the Google maps class. Presentation and discussion of questions. Populations, sampling and randomization.

Assignment: Critically examine and evaluate three surveys and compare their questions with those you are planning to ask. How are their objectives different from yours? (Part of the evaluation)

Week 2: Survey collection

June 13: Discussion of the assignment. Recruiting and training personnel. Survey collection using freely available tools (Google Forms; SurveyMonkey; Kobo). Input surveys into these tools.

June 14: Survey collection using tools for self-storage (e.g. Access). Data entry using MS Access.

Assignment: Finish this at home if we can't finish it in class.

June 15: Backup concerns (from electricity to accessibility). Continuing the programming. Go back to big questions: How do these local data collection methods connect to answer national questions amongst communities?

Assignment: Make a pilot test. Conduct the interview either in person or on the phone with more than one person in your community. Enter the results into your data collection solution. (Part of the evaluation)

Week 3: Survey processing (graphics, maps, significance)

June 20: Interpreting results. Extracting results from freely available tools (graphics from Google forms, etc). Crossing variables. Minimal introduction to statistical significance.

June 21: Extracting results into Google Fusion tables. Mapping. Producing reports. Continuing to talk about statistical significance. Qualitative analysis: finding themes.

June 22: Practice in producing results.

Assignment: Continue the pilot test, add at least three new people to the survey. Make a presentation of the results for the class. (Part of the evaluation)

Week 4: Review, additional contents

June 27: Analyze the reports in groups. Work and practice. Additional contents suggested by students.

June 28: Final day, future work.

Final project: Draft of results. (Part of the evaluation)

Evaluation:

There are 3 activities/assignments throughout the course and a final project that will be assessed by the instructors. Participation is essential to your success, and because of the condensed format of the course daily attendance is mandatory. If you anticipate missing any classes please speak to one of the instructors.

- 20% Critical examination of surveys
- 20% Report of first pilot test
- 20% Report of second pilot test
- 40% Draft of preliminary results (final paper)