

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 4217S  
Date of Senate Approval 04/13/17

-----  
Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 39 (WLNG): Add new courses, WLNG 110 and 120, Cherokee I and II**

**Effective Date: Fall 2017**

**1. Add:** On page 296, new course, **WLNG 110, Cherokee I:**

**110 Cherokee I (4)**

Introductory study of Cherokee language and culture through classroom instruction. Students make short presentations, have short dialogues, listen, read, and write in Cherokee. A new method for breaking down and understanding the long polysynthetic words makes learning this endangered language easier. Online and written materials are used. Students learn present and command tenses. Fall.

**Add:** On page 296, new course, **WLNG 120, Cherokee II:**

**120 Cherokee II (4)**

Continuation of the introductory study of Cherokee language and culture through classroom instruction. Students extend their presentations and dialogues, and reading and writing become more complex. A new method for breaking down and understanding the long polysynthetic words is extended to include past perfect and future perfect tenses. Online and written materials are used. Prerequisite: WLNG 110. Spring.

**IMPACT STATEMENT:** There will be some impact on the campus community as adjunct professors will need to be hired and supported. Currently, Dr. Barbara Duncan (Education Director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian) and Mr. Gilliam Jackson (Snowbird community member), formerly Principal of the Atse Kituwah Immersion Academy, are leading the courses. They have been enthusiastically embraced by both the EBCI students and the non-Native students in the course. Administration will need to continue to make a financial commitment to the courses through the funding of the two adjunct positions.

Completion of WLNG 120 will satisfy the LAC Second Language requirement.

**RATIONALE:** The Cherokee Language courses fulfill one aspect of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian and UNC Asheville to help preserve, protect and revitalize the language. In addition, the ability of UNC Asheville students to study an indigenous language on campus will be an important part of the American Indian and Indigenous Studies minor program. This past fall, the first offering of Cherokee Language courses were opened to UNC Asheville students. The response was overwhelming as the class was filled almost immediately with a waitlist for 10 additional students. At the end of the semester, student feedback was extremely encouraging. As a result, of the 25 students from the Fall 2016 Cherokee I course offering (WLNG 174), 21 students enrolled in the second course offered Spring 2017, with many of them requesting additional courses at the 200-400 level.

UNC Asheville is uniquely situated to support this endeavor due to its proximity to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Qualla Boundary, which allows for tribal members and first language speakers to help teach and support the course. Grants are being explored to help support the dynamic nature of the course with field trips, guest speakers and other cultural components deeply embedded into the curriculum of the courses.