ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is designed to introduce students to the life and languages of Yolŋu people in East Arnhem Land. The course concentrates on Yolŋu Matha (Yolŋu language) forms of Dhuwala, and focuses on the everyday community version of the language. A basic grounding in the sounds of the languages, grammar and basic vocabulary provides the basis to develop conversation ability and the learning of other Yolŋu languages. Moiety systems, various aspects of kinship, Yolŋu life, creation stories, songs, art and ceremonies and how these relate are also presented. Also the independent studies unit allows students an opportunity to focus on topics of personal interest.

Please visit the following link for more information. http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/yolngustudies/

STUDY OPTION

In 2015 Yolŋu Studies will be delivered at CDU Casuarina campus for Darwin residents as well as online teaching for people living outside of Darwin regions. Yolŋu Studies also deliver Livestream sessions by Yolŋu lecturers from the homes across East Arnhem Land.

On-campus teaching will be delivered in the late afternoon (5:00 - 7:00pm) in order to have this course available and flexible for as many students as possible.

The closing date for application into the Graduate Certificate in Yolŋu Studies often ends in December. We advise prospective students to enrol well before this date, as it may not be extended.
WHY LEARN YOLṌU MATHA?

There are several reasons to learn Yolŋu Matha. Perhaps the most important reason is to help you appreciate the quality, depth and complexity of the Yolŋu universe, (a universe vastly different from the Western world) where Yolŋu cultures are both ancient and modern. You don’t need to be fluent to begin this. As soon as you begin to say and hear the pronunciation of names properly, you will begin to see the connectedness between the names of people, the names of their lands, plants, animals and ancestors. While much of the Yolŋu world simply cannot be explained in English, there is much that Balanda (non-Yolŋu) can learn from Yolŋu, particularly about relating to the land, environment and to each other.

Another reason is to show respect for Australia’s First Nations peoples and their ways of life. It is ethnocentric for white Australians to expect to be able to communicate with everyone in English and Yolŋu are certainly aware of this.

A third reason is to help you communicate with Yolŋu. Many Yolŋu have not had the opportunity or need to learn English. You have the opportunity to learn Yolŋu Matha.

Learning Yolŋu Matha does not require outstanding ability, but it does require a commitment to regular learning, say 30 minutes a day, and regular practice with Yolŋu lecturers, friends and families.

OTHER DETAILS
- Enrol online through: http://www.satac.edu.au
- The reference materials “Yolŋu Languages & Culture – Gupapuyŋu: Books and CDs pack” is available through the CDU Bookshop

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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