TECHNOLOGY
FOR
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION

PRELIMINARIES

Who am I?
Who are you?

PROFESSORS

~1600
Have PhDs (usually)
Call them "Professor X" or "Dr. X" (usually)
36% are adjuncts

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Me

~ 4000 (~1400 are TAs)
TAs are PhD students (usually)
PhD students get paid; Masters students pay (usually)
Call me by my first name

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

~20,000
~10% are international students
Let me know what you'd like to be called!

WHO ARE YOU?

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

This class is a weird hybrid.

Goal 1: Explore the benefits and drawbacks of technological approaches to language revitalization.

➤ Why is linguistic diversity important?
➤ What threatens linguistic diversity?
➤ How can technology help and hurt efforts to preserve linguistic diversity?

Goal 2: Help you adjust to college.

➤ What kind of resources are available on campus?
➤ How can I read academic papers effectively?

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

➤ **COME TO CLASS**

➤ **Ask for help** when you need it.

➤ **Come talk to me** if you fall behind

➤ **Treat other students respectfully**. If they share an opinion, consider it for a minute before responding.

➤ Stop me if you don't understand something. This class is casual and I'm happy to be interrupted.

COURSE PRACTICALITIES

➤ Office hours are on Tuesdays in the ILC

➤ I communicate best by email: carolynander@umass.edu

➤ Weekly assignments will usually be reading

➤ There are 2 reflection papers

Please let me know if you are spending more than three hours on work for this class

ATTENDANCE

➤ Please **email me** if you are going to miss class.

➤ In the case of a serious, unexpected event that will impact your attendance, let me know as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

➤ If you are participating in a university activity that will require you to miss more than 3 classes, let me know now.

➤ If the activity requires that you miss more than 20% of our class meetings, university regulations require that you drop either the course or the activity.

OFFICE HOURS

➤ Tuesdays from 10:15-11:15

➤ ILC N421C

➤ Come talk about course material, college transition issues, or linguistics in general

GRADING

➤ The course is pass/fail

➤ To receive a passing grade you must complete all in-class activities and assignments

➤ At the end of the semester, your lowest in-class grade will be dropped

➤ There will also be an opportunity to replace an in-class grade with an extra credit activity

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY
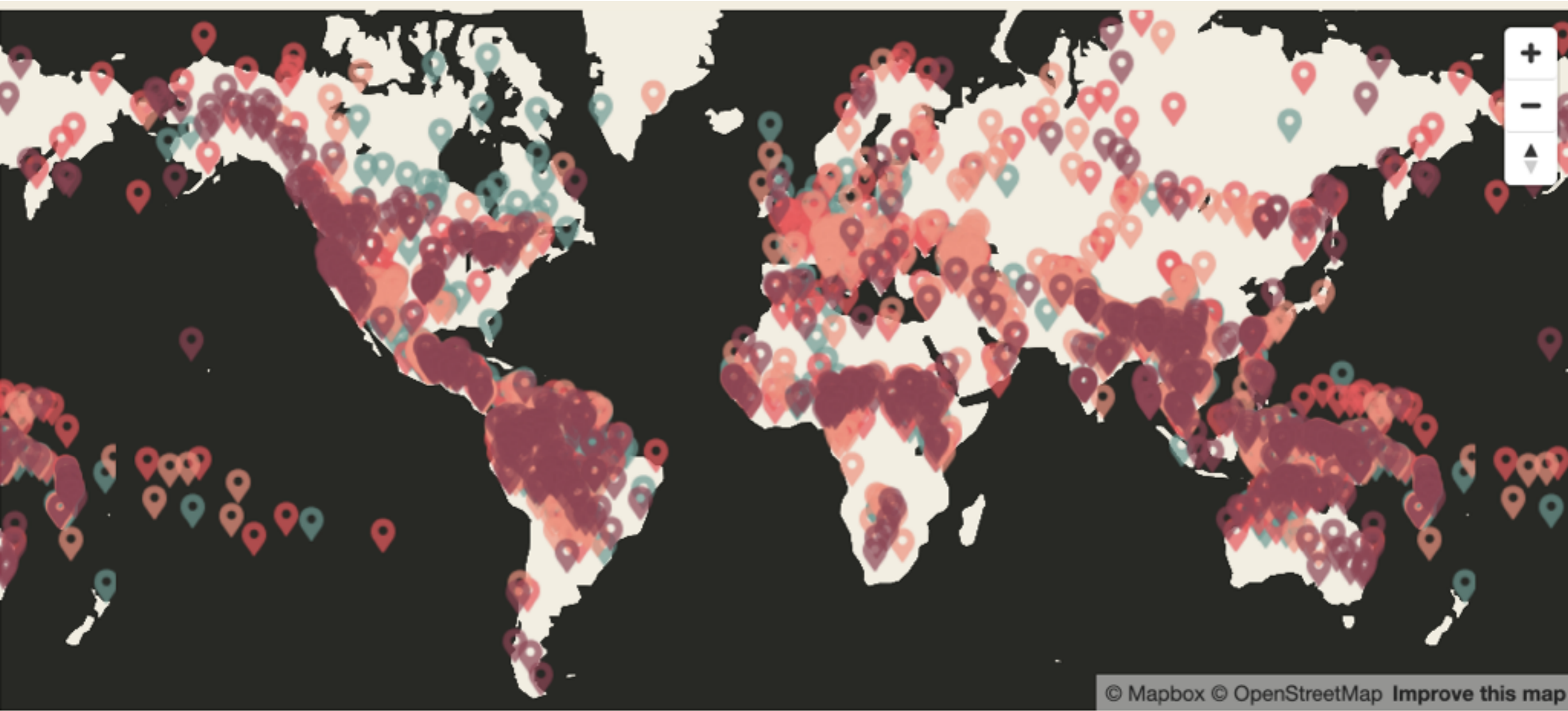
WHAT IS A LANGUAGE?

This is a hard question!

HOW MANY LANGUAGES ARE THERE?

This isn't easy either (see above), but we estimate that there are about 7000 languages

HOW ABOUT IN THE US?

About 150, but there used to be closer to 300

ABOUT 50% OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES ARE ENDANGERED

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ABOUT 90% OF LANGUAGES IN THE US ARE ENDANGERED

LANGUAGE ENDANGERMENT

➤ Languages aren't distributed evenly

➤ **Endangered** languages aren't distributed evenly

➤ Not all languages are shown on this map

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

➤ It matters to the speakers of those languages

➤ It's a loss of cultural knowledge

➤ It's a loss of scientific knowledge

➤ It's a human rights issue

"ENDANGERMENT"

➤ This is a somewhat controversial term.

➤ Preferred over "language death"

➤ Often classified on a 5 point scale:

1. Vigorous / healthy
2. Threatened
3. Shifting
4. Moribund
5. Sleeping
6. Awakening

LEVELS OF LANGUAGE THREAT

Threatened   *Language has declining numbers of users*

Shifting   *Children are not acquiring the language*

Moribund   *Oldest native speakers are grandparents*

Sleeping   *Language has declining numbers of users*

Awakening   *Language has no native speakers but the community is using and teaching it again*