AYA UMA
(ENG: Spirit head)
Andean spirit representation
used in ceremonies, dances
and festivities

LING 440/540
TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS
Sociolinguistic and Cultural Studies in Minority Languages of the Americas

Professor: Santiago Gualapuro
Meeting Times: T, TH; 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

This course examines the ongoing struggle to maintain, preserve, and revitalize indigenous and other minority languages of the Americas. This course will address the pre-Columbian history of indigenous languages, language contact, and the interrelated phenomena of language shift through contact linguistics and social connections. We will look at language endangerment, language death, and the maintenance and survival of endangered languages of the Americas, with special emphasis on Andean indigenous languages.

We also will discuss whether recent efforts at documenting and revitalizing endangered languages are compatible with community-internal language ideologies, with known cases of the shift from one indigenous language to another. This course will also examine how linguistic contact with European languages and cultures has shaped and conditioned these languages' existence and survival in the twenty-first century.