SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Summer 2017
LING 811 Topics in Linguistics I (4 units)
Morphology and syntax of a First Nations language

Instructor: Donna Gerds; Elder: Ruby Peter
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Location: TBA, Duncan, BC
Dates/Times: TBA

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to morphology and syntax, with special reference to Hul’q’umi’num’ sentence structure and word architecture. We will start with an analysis of simple clauses, looking at word order, inflection, voice (active, passive, and antipassive), oblique marking, and clitic type and order.

Next, we will focus on the linguistic structure of Hul’q’umi’num’ words. We will learn how to use the dictionary and other electronic resources to construct and solve problem sets designed to figure out word architecture. What is the root of the word? What are the prefixes, suffixes, and infixes? What meaning does each have?

We will explore a variety of verb suffixes, including transitive, reflexive, reciprocal, applicative, and causative. What syntactic effect do these suffixes have on clause structure? Can these suffixes co-occur on the same root? What order do they appear in?

We will examine complex clause constructions, including coordination, subordination, nominalization, and topicalization and their uses in expressing complementation, wh-questions, and focus constructions.

Course Materials:
To be distributed in class, including papers from the reading list below.

Course Grading:
In-class presentations 20%
Problem sets 30%
Writing assignments 30%
Project and final presentation 20%

Reading List: