

## **SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

LING 812-4 Topics in Linguistics II (4 units)

Socio-cultural and cognitive aspects of a First Nations language (Hul'q'umi'num')

Summer 2017

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

### **Course Description**

This course investigates language in its cultural, social, and cognitive context. Topics include dialect and language definition, language change, languages in contact, language and identity, language and environment, language and worldview, language and oral performance, language endangerment and maintenance, and sociolinguistic factors affecting language materials development. We will focus in particular on the interplay of language and culture in Hul'q'umi'num', bringing in examples from other languages of the world for comparison. We will examine a variety of functional categories, including tense, number, gender, diminutives, and speech act particles, showing their connection to the Hul'q'umi'num' world view.

Topics include: areal features of Northwest languages, the Salish language family, Hul'q'umi'num' dialects, contact linguistics (loans, neologisms), gender, numeral classification, kin terms, anchoring language in time and space, expressing speaker's viewpoint, oral traditions, , place names, ethnomusicology, and ethnobiology (plants, animals, birds, sea life).

### **Course Materials:**

To be distributed in class, including the reading list below:

### **Course Evaluation:**

We will engage in a variety of activities in class. Students will be responsible for keeping a journal (with drawings and photos) describing the activities with accompanying Hul'q'umi'num', and noting topics for further research and curriculum development. Students will write weekly essays based on reading materials and lectures. Each student will do a final project.

Participation:	25%
Journal:	25%
Three short essays:	25%
Project:	25%

**Reading list:** (to be updated)

- Gerdts, Donna B. (2013) “The Purview Effect: Feminine Gender on Inanimates in Halkomelem Salish,” *Proceedings of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, University of California, Berkeley, California, pp. 417–426.
- Gerdts, Donna B., and Ruby M. Peter (2011) “The Form and Function of Nativized Names in Hul'q'umi'num',” *Papers for the 46th International Conference on Salish and Neighbouring Languages*, UBCWPL 30, 81–100.
- Gerdts, Donna B., and Mercedes Q. Hinkson (2004) “Salish Numeral Classifiers: A Lexical Means to a Grammatical End,” *Sprachtypologie und Universalienforschung* 57: 2/3, 247–279.
- Gerdts, Donna B. (2010) “Beyond Expertise: The Role of the Linguist in Language Revitalization Programs,” in N. L. Furbee and L. A. Grenoble (eds.), *Language Documentation: Practice and Values*, J. Benjamins, Amsterdam, 173–192.