

(250) 373-2259

Simon Fraser University
Prince Rupert First Nations Teacher Education Program
98-2 Intersession
EDUC 498-4 Special Topics: First Nations Language Teaching
Instructor: Dr. Marianne B. Ignace and Mercedes Hinkson

Course Outline:

This course is intended for teacher education students who hope to teach particular First Nations languages in the public school system or in First Nations schools. It will provide students with an overview of concepts and issues relevant to teaching First Nations languages in the British Columbia school system. We will begin with First Nations language program planning in public schools and First Nations schools in so far as it relates to the concept of language planning for communities with endangered languages. This will particularly involve discussing possibilities of Aboriginal language revitalization, and the role which First Nations communities, families, adult education and the school system can play in efforts at language revitalization. Following that, we will discuss the concept of language curriculum design, and the building blocks of language curriculum design. Students will become familiar with developing a scope and sequence for a language program, with thematic unit planning, the writing of learning outcomes, of assessment and evaluation strategies and other elements of language curriculum design. We will examine existing models of First Nations language curriculum, including the Ministry of Education's language template for grades 5 to 12, and how to effectively work with existing curricula, in particular in planning language content, finding instructional resources, and using teaching strategies and student assessment. During the final part of the course, students will develop and present sample curricula, which can meet the needs of their languages, their communities and schools.

Textbooks:

Marianne Ignace, Handbook for Aboriginal Language Program Planning in British Columbia. 1998 First Nations Education Steering Committee, North Vancouver
plus: kit of reading materials and hand-outs

Student Evaluation:

Final Marks will be based on:

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| Exam on readings | 30% |
| short assignments | 30% |
| Final project | 30% |
| Participation | 10% |

Course Schedule and Organization:

The course will be held in a series of all-day sessions on the following days:

May 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. (5 all-day sessions)

May 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 (5 all-day sessions)

In addition, during the period between the two sessions, participants will spend approximately 3-5 hours in classroom observations of First Nations language classes towards their research projects.