

College of Micronesia - FSM
P.O. Box 159
Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941
Course Outline Cover Page

Pohnpeian
Course Title

ML 150
Department & Number

Course Description:

This course will cover the grammar of the Pohnpeian language. Students will become familiar with the basic linguistic features of Pohnpeian language, i.e.: phonological, morphological, and especially the syntactical features of Pohnpeian.

Course Prepared by: National Languages and Culture Institute **State:** National

	Hours per Week	No. of Weeks	Total Hours	Semester Credits
Lecture	<u>3</u> x	<u>16</u> x	<u>48</u> =	<u> </u>
Laboratory	<u> </u> x	<u> </u> x	<u> </u> =	<u> </u>
Workshop	<u> </u> x	<u> </u> x	<u> </u> =	<u> </u>
Total Semester Credits =				<u>3</u>

Purpose of Course:	Degree Requirement	<u> </u>
	Degree Elective	<u> </u>
	Certificate	<u> </u>
	Remedial	<u> </u>
	Other (workshop)	<u> </u>

1/16/04

Date Approved by Committee

1/20/2004

Signature, President, COM-F5M

Date Approved by President

ML150 Pohnpeian Course Description

This course will cover the grammar of the Pohnpeian language. Students will become familiar with the basic linguistic features of Pohnpeian language, i.e.: phonological, morphological, and especially the syntactical features of Pohnpeian.

I. Course Objectives

General Objectives:

1. Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate mastery of Pohnpeian grammar including the sound system (phonetics), the sound pattern (phonology), word structure (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), and meaning (semantics).
2. Upon completion of the course, students will have full grasp of the honorific registers and the contexts within which they are used.

Specific Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- 1.1 Explain the Pohnpeian sound system.
 - 1.2 Identify, verbally and in writing, all of the 21 phonemes used in the language.
 - 1.3 Discuss and identify the complex *affixation* of words, especially suffixes, in the Pohnpeian Language.
 - 1.4 Write words using appropriate word boundaries as per the grammatical and orthographical features of the language.
 - 1.5 Identify and reproduce Pohnpeian sentence structure (typology) including the placement of the (S)ubject, (V)erb, and (O)bject within the sentence.
 - 1.6 Construct sentences, using the different verb types: transitive and intransitive (active, resultative, neutral, and adjectival verbs).
 - 1.7 Construct sentences and phrases that appropriately use of verb-noun incorporation, also known as incorporated objects.
 - 1.8 Construct sentences and phrases that appropriately use Pohnpeian demonstrative modifiers.
 - 1.9 Construct sentences that demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the two general types of sentences ('verbal sentences' and 'equational sentences') in Pohnpeian.
 - 1.10 Discriminate between verbal and equational sentences.

- 2.1. Speak and write using correct honorific registers in sentences, dialogues, and other scenarios.

II. Course Contents

1) Introduction & Historical Background of the Language

Reading: Selection from K.L. Rehg and D.G. Sohl, Pohnpei Reference Grammar: Ch. 1, pp. 1-17

Topics:

Pohnpeian is a member of one of the world's largest language families. The name of this family is Austronesian. Austronesian languages are generally divided into two groups: the Oceanic subgroup that includes most of the languages of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, and the Western group, to which nearly all other Austronesian language are assigned.

2} The Sound System of Pohnpeian.

Selection from K.L. Rehg and D.G. Sohl, Pohnpei Reference Grammar: Ch.2, pp.21-64

Topics:

Linguists use the term phoneme to talk about the distinctive sounds of a language. A phoneme is simply a speech sound that signals a difference in meaning. Testing which sounds create a difference in meaning is one of the important ways a linguist may determine what the distinctive sounds or phonemes are in that particular language.

3) Words: Their Structure and Function.

Selection from K.L. Rehg and D.G. Sohl, Pohnpei Reference Grammar: Ch.3, pp. 66-115

Topics:

Just as the phoneme is the basic unit of the sound system, the morpheme is the basic unit of words structure. The concept of a morpheme is very useful in describing language. A morpheme, then, may be a word or a part of a word. Morphemes are simply building blocks of words.

4a) Nouns and Noun Phrases:

Selection from K.L. Rehg and D.G. Sohl, Pohnpei Reference Grammar: Ch.4, pp. 116-192

Topics:

A noun phrase consists of a noun plus any other words or word groups that belong to the noun and in some way modify its meaning. The noun being referred to is called the head of the noun phrase; the other words or morphemes present help the speaker specify or make reference to the identity or meaning of the head noun.

4b) Demonstratives:

Selection from K.L. Rehg and D.G. Sohl, 1981, Pohnpei Reference Grammar: Ch.4, pp. 42-154.

Topics:

Demonstratives are defined broadly as morphemes or words whose function is to help limit the range of what the speaker and listener is talking about in terms of location. This section will examine the various kinds of demonstratives that occur in or replace the noun phrase in Pohnpeian. There are three basic types of demonstratives which will be covered. They are: demonstrative modifiers, pointing demonstratives, and demonstrative pronouns.

5) Verbs and Verb Phrases:

Selection from K.L. Rehg and D.G. Sohl, Pohnpei Reference Grammar: Ch.5, pp. 193-275

Topics:

Just as every noun phrase must contain a noun, so must every verb phrase contain a verb. Consequently, we will begin our study of the verb phrase by examining verbs, considering first what verbs are, what classes of verbs there are, and what affixes may combine with verbs.

6) Sentences:

Selection from K.L. Rehg and D.G. Sohl, Pohnpei Reference Grammar: Ch.6, pp. 276-358

Topics:

Ideally, our goal in this chapter would be set forth a set of rules so precise that they would account for all of the sentences that are grammatical in Pohnpeian and exclude all of those that are ungrammatical. The two general types of sentences: verbal and equational sentences will be discussed at length in here.

Other basic sentence types such as imperative sentences, thematic sentences, interrogative sentences, negative sentences, compound sentences and complex sentences will also be considered in this chapter.

7) Honorific Speech:

Selection from K.L. Rehg and D.G. Sohl, *Pohnpei Reference Grammar*: Ch.7, pp.359375

Topics:

The principal function of honorific speech is to show respect. Therefore, its use is bound up with consideration of social status. Who one is speaking to or about, whether superiors, peers, or inferiors, determines when and how this speech style is to be employed. Honorific speech is principally exemplified by the use of special morphemes and words that substitute for certain language nouns, verbs, pronouns and possessive classifiers. Pohnpeian is the only Micronesian language that has developed this speech style to any degree of complexity. Since not all speakers of Pohnpeian are able to use honorific speech with equal facility, command of this speech style is typically equated with sophistication, cultivation, and the ability to speak Pohnpeian well.

HL Textbook

Rehg, Kenneth L. and Sohl, Damian G. 1981, *Pohnpei Reference Grammar*, University of Hawai'i Press.

IV. Required Course Materials

None.

V. Reference Material

Rehg, Kenneth L. and Sohl, Damian G. 1979, *Pohnpei English Dictionary*, University of Hawai'i Press.

VL Instructional Costs

None.

VII. Method of Instruction

The instructor may use but is not limited to lecture, discussion, group discussion, group presentations, projects, quizzes, tests, videos, computer software and exercises in order to achieve the stated objectives of the course.

VIII. Evaluation

The instructor will create measurement instruments that demonstrate competency in the stated objectives. These may include multiple choice, short answer, and essay quizzes or assignments. The instructor will give a mid-term and final examination.

IX. Attendance Policy

The COM-FSM attendance policy applies to this course.

X. Academic Honesty Policy

The COM-FSM academic honesty policy applies to this course.