Micronesian Cultural Studies
Course Title

Course Description:
A comparative study of Micronesian culture including customs and beliefs, arts and crafts, kinship and language.

Course Prepared by: Social Science

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours per Week</th>
<th>No. of Weeks</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
<th>Semester Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
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<td>Workshop</td>
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Total Semester Credits 3

Purpose of Course:
Degree Requirement x
Degree Elective x
Certificate Requirement
ELS
Other

Prerequisite Course(s):
ESL 089

SPENSIN JAMES
Signature, Chairperson, Curriculum Committee
4/16/01 Date Approved by Committee

SUSAN MOSES
Signature, President, COM-FSM
4/25/01 Date Approved by President
**I. Course Objectives**

**A. General Objectives**

Students will demonstrate comparative knowledge and understanding of Micronesian customs and beliefs, arts and crafts, kinship and languages.

**B. Specific Objectives**

Students will be able to explain, compare and contrast Micronesian customs and beliefs related to:
- marriage and childbirth, death and funerals, canoes and fishing, farming and food, land tenure and leadership
- Students will be able to distinguish between the various types of Micronesian canoes in terms of design and construction methods
- Students will be able to explain the traditional navigation methods used by Micronesian seafarers
- Students will be able to identify the origin of various types of chants, dances, body adornment and carvings
- Students will be able to explain and/or demonstrate the movements of various dances
- Students will be able to explain the contents of dances and chants in terms of cultural meaning and significance.
- Students will be able to explain the roles and relationships within Micronesian kinship lineages including land tenure and political power
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the principles and methods of oral historiography.
- Students will demonstrate an ability to undertake an oral, history research project
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the grammar of Yapese, Chuukese, Kosraen and Pohnpeian as well as elements of Woleian, Pingelapese, Mokilese, Kapingamarangi and Nukuoroan. Students will develop comparative vocabulary lists
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of some of the major rules of grammar of the various Micronesian languages

**II. Course Content**

**A. Beliefs & Customs**

Childbirth
- Marriages
- Houses
Canoes
Funeral
Fishing
Farming
Food & Eating
Leadership
Land Tenure

B. Arts & Crafts

Canoes
Profile
Construction
Use
Navigation

Fine Arts
Carvings
Body adornment
Chants
Dances

C. Kinship
Lineages
Roles & Relationships
Land tenure & inheritance
Political power
Oral history

D. Comparative Language
Vocabulary
Grammar
Usage

III. Textbooks

Ashby, J., Micronesian Customs and Beliefs, 1993, Rainy Day Press, Eugene.
Numerous handouts on subject areas

IV. Required Course Materials -- None
V. Reference Materials

Alkire, W., *Lamotrek atoll and inter-island socioeconomic ties, 1965*, University of Illinois Press, Urbana


Goodenough, W., *Property and community on Truk, 1951*, Yale University Press, Princeton


Haddon, A., *Canoes of Oceania, 1975*, Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu


Lingenfelter, S., *Yap: Political leadership and culture change in an island society, 1975*, University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu
VI. Instructional Costs -- None

VII. Methods of Instruction
Lecture
Discussion
Video
Guest Speakers
Fieldtrips

VIII. Method of Evaluation
Tests
Projects
Portfolios

IX Attendance Policy
The standard COM-FSM attendance policy applies to this course