

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course deals with the various forms of governments existing in the Micronesian region and the politics associated with them. This course will discuss the impact of tradition vis-à-vis politics and the formal and informal roles of the traditional leaders in the various governments and in the political process.

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Program Learning Outcomes, Micronesian Studies Program:

The students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to read, speak and write effectively in English about Micronesian Studies Program course content.
- Demonstrate a practical knowledge of the structure and function of government in the FSM
- Demonstrate a practical knowledge of the main social, political and economic issues in the FSM.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the requirements of good citizenship in the FSM.

B. General Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Identify different forms of governments in the Micronesian region.
2. Describe the formation of the National, State, and Local governments in the different island States in the Micronesian region.
3. Identify the western concepts, the vocabularies, and terminologies woven into the three levels of government constitutions.
4. Examine the history of modern political development in the Micronesian region.
5. Examine the traditional political organizations of the islands in the Micronesian region.

C. Specific Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- 1.1 Differentiate parliamentary government from presidential government systems within the Micronesian region.
- 1.2 Identify the main features of the parliamentary form of governments in the Micronesian region such as Republic of the Marshall Islands and Nauru.
- 1.3 Identify the main features of the presidential form of governments in the Micronesian region such as Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau.
- 1.4 Explain by comparing and contrasting the system of government in the Federated States of Micronesia to the ones in the other two freely associated states, namely Marshall Islands and Palau.
- 2.1 Critically discuss the formation of the different levels of government systems in the islands of Micronesia.

- 2.2 Differentiate the federal system of government in the Federated States of Micronesia from other forms of federal systems in the Micronesian region.
- 2.3 Write a critical essay on the rationale for adopting a federal system of government in the Federated States of Micronesia
- 2.4 Explain how the concepts of separation of power and check and balance work at the state and national levels of government in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- 2.5 Examine why various political statuses exist in the Micronesian regions.
- 2.6 Discuss how local politics affect the election of the president and vice president in the FSM and how this differs from other islands in Micronesia.
- 2.7 Discuss how electoral processes occur in the different levels of government and differentiate differences within the islands in Micronesia.
- 2.8 Discuss why the FSM Congress is generally perceived as more powerful than the president in the national level.
- 2.9 Compare and contrast the election of the president in the FSM to the election of the president of Palau and other head of states in the different Micronesian islands.
- 3.1 Discuss the similarities and differences between the different constitutions of the Micronesian Island Nations.
- 3.2 Define “Sovereign State” as indicated in the islands’ constitution.
- 3.3 Define “citizenship” according to the islands’ constitution.
- 3.4 List, define and explain the basic roles of citizens and other crucial political infrastructures such as the interest groups, political parties, and other non-governmental organizations.
- 3.5 Examine the Electoral systems of the different Micronesian islands according to their constitutions.
- 4.1 Differentiate colonialism from decolonialism.
- 4.2 Explain by writing a critical essay on how colonization influenced the political practices of contemporary Micronesian islands and people.
- 4.3 Discuss events leading to the process of decolonialization in Micronesia.
- 4.4 Identify the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as the forerunner of the FSM, Marshall Islands, and Palau.
- 4.5. Identify the political status of each of the political entities in the Micronesian region leading from decolonization.
- 4.6 Critically discuss Compact of Free Association and its implication on the freely associate states in Micronesia.
- 5.1 Explain impact of tradition on Micronesian politics.
- 5.2 Identify the formal roles assigned to the traditional leaders of the Marshall and Palau at the national level of their respective government.
- 5.3 Explain how the national constitution defines a role for the traditional leaders in modern governance in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- 5.4 Discuss by critically writing an essay on women’s authority in traditional Micronesian societies.
- 5.5 Explain the role of women in modern politics vis-à-vis their roles in traditional societies.
- 5.6 Write a properly documented research paper on a selected topic.

II. COURSE CONTENT

The content of this course are as followed:

1. Purpose and Roles of Government and Politics in Society
2. Traditional Political Structure and Authority in Micronesia
3. Government and Politics in three Freely Associated States;
4. Government and Politics in the US Territory of Guam and the US Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
5. Government and Politics in the Republics of Nauru and Kiribati;
6. Formal and informal roles of Traditional leaders in contemporary governance;
7. Custom/Tradition and Women in Politics

III. TEXTBOOK

1. Hanlon, David. Remaking Micronesia: Discourses over Development in a Pacific Territory, 1944-1982. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1998. (ISBN: 0824820118)
2. In addition, reading handouts from reference materials will be assigned.

IV. REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS -- None

V. REFERENCE MATERIALS

1. A Micronesian chamber of chiefs? The 1990 Federated States of Micronesia Constitutional Convention by Glenn Peterson (p.184) excerpt from Chiefs Today; Traditional Pacific Leadership and the Postcolonial State. White, Geoffrey M. and Lamont Lindstrom (ed.). Stanford University Press 1997.
2. Economic development and dependency by Bruce Knapman (p.325) excerpt from Tides of History. Howe, K.R., Robert C. Kiste, and Brij V. Lal (ed.). University of Hawaii Press 1994.
3. Federated States of Micronesia Constitution
4. Four FSM state constitutions
5. Gender Roles (pp.46-65) excerpt from The New Shape of Old Island Culture. Hezel, Francis X. Hawaii Press 2001.
6. Irooj Ro Ad: Measures of Chiefly Ideology and Practice in the Marshall Islands by Laurence M. Carucci (pp. 197-211) excerpt from Chiefs Today; Traditional Pacific Leadership and the Postcolonial State. White, Geoffrey M. and Lamont Lindstrom (ed.). Stanford University Press 1997.
7. Micronesian Politics. Institute of South Pacific Studies. University of the South Pacific 1988.

8. Patterns of Colonial Rule in Micronesia by David Hanlon (p.93) excerpt from Tides of History. Howe, K.R., Robert C. Kiste, and Brij V. Lal (ed.). University of Hawaii Press 1994.
9. Political Authority (pp. 121 – 137) excerpt from The New Shape of Old Island Culture. Hezel, Francis X. Hawaii Press 2001.
10. Republic of Palau Constitution
11. Republic of the Marshall Islands Constitution
12. Traditional leaders today in the Federated States of Micronesia by Eve C. Pinsker (p.150) excerpt from Chiefs Today; Traditional Pacific Leadership and the Postcolonial State. White, Geoffrey M. and Lamont Lindstrom (ed.). Stanford University Press 1997.
13. United States by Robert C. Kiste (p.227) excerpt from Tides of History. Howe, K.R., Robert C. Kiste, and Brij V. Lal (ed.). University of Hawaii Press 1994.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL COST -- None

VII. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

This course will utilize several modes of teaching such as lecture, class discussion, viewing of videos and guest lecturers.

Suggested Course Videos

1. Catalyst of Change: Exploration, War and Revolution (Modern State, Authority, Legitimacy and Political Choice)
2. Your Vote, Our Vote (Election, Political Parties, Parliamentary System and Bureaucracy)
3. Micronesia: A Beginning (Democracy and Constitutionalism in the FSM)

VIII. EVALUATION:

None. No credit-by-examination.

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As per the current COM-FSM college catalog

X. HONESTY POLICY:

As per the current COM-FSM college catalog