

**Appendix C  
College of Micronesia-FSM**

**COURSE OUTLINE COVER PAGE**

Contemporary Issues in Micronesia  
Course Title

SS 220  
Department and Number

**Course Description:**

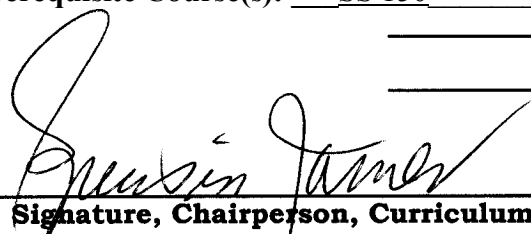
Examines the major political, social, economic and cultural issues facing Micronesian societies today.

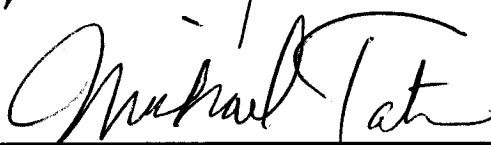
**Course Prepared by:** Social Science State National Campus

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

**Purpose of Course:** Degree Requirement \_\_\_\_\_  
 Degree Elective X  
 Certificate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Prerequisite Course(s):** SS 150

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature, Chairperson, Curriculum Committee**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature, President, COM-FSM

11/11/03  
Date Approved by Committee

11/18/03  
Date Approved by President

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **SS220 Contemporary Issues in Micronesia**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Although commonly perceived by outsiders as paradise, the Pacific Island regions are experiencing many of the same problems as other parts of the third world. These problems have emerged more starkly with the end of the cold war, which has created a less supportive international environment for the numerous small island nations and territories scattered across the vast Oceanic realm. Since we are located in the Micronesian region, the course will focus on Micronesian issues.

This course is structured into four parts. The first part provides an overview of the Micronesian region and introduces a range of important issues to be discussed, including the desire and the need for prudent development. Part 2 outlines the effects of colonialism, the process of decolonialization, the present status, prospects for the future, and some problematic areas for economic development. Part 3 focuses on prospects and problems for economic development. Part 4 looks at the population, environment, education, public health, political, and traditional issues and/or concerns. By presenting these parts to the students, it will enable them, who are the citizens and prospective future leaders of the nation, to explore at deeper levels issues concerning the islands in order to understand and promote the type of desired changes that are conducive and consistent with the way of life in Micronesia.

#### **I. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

##### **A. GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

The general objective of this course is to enable and develop student's abilities to think, read, write, and analyze through discussion and empirical research the various contemporary issues in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This course will discuss in general and specific manners each issue in the FSM, with the view to encourage students to pay keen attention to the importance and magnitude of each issue.

Being required to discuss the issues will increase students' understanding of the rapidly changing societies of the FSM and the social, political, and economic issues and problems. It will increase students' awareness of the dilemmas facing a very small island nation in a world dominated by global powers. And it will increase students' ability to analyze and interpret the interdisciplinary materials employed in the course.

##### **B. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

#### **PART I: At the end of Part 1 (Overview) students will be able to:**

- List and describe the major islands of the Micronesian region.
- Identify and discuss general issues shared by the different islands in the Micronesian region.

- Define traditional society in FSM by examining traditional practices throughout the Micronesian region.
- In an essay explain how traditional societies in Micronesia differ from modern day Micronesia.

**PART II: At the end of part 2 (Colonialism, decolonialization, current status, problematic areas, and prospects of the future) students will be able to:**

- Define colonialism and discuss the different colonial era in Micronesia, specifically the FSM.
- Write a critical paper on the influence of colonialism on the islands' social, political and cultural practices.
- Define decolonialism and discuss events leading to the process of decolonialization in Micronesia.
- Write an essay on the Compact of Free Association and its role in FSM's sovereignty.
- Critically discuss the 1986 Compact of Free Association and its implication to the current re-negotiation of the Compact.

**PART III: At the end of part 3 (Examination of prospects and problems of economic development) students will -be-able to:**

- Differentiate individualist from communalism.
- Define traditional leaders in Micronesian and their roles in the islands' economic development.
- List and discuss influence of the Compact of Free Association to economic development of the islands.
- Discuss the economic potentials and constraints of the FSM.
- Write a critical essay on how modernity and rapid economic development have influence the social, political and cultural changes in the islands.

**PART IV: At the end of part 4.(population, environment, education, public health, and other issues) students will be able to:**

- Define infant mortality, death mortality and life expectancy and discuss how these influence the demography of FSM.
- Discuss by comparing and contrasting population trends in the Pacific islands with the population of FSM.
- Discuss the impact of pollution on tropical islands and atolls and give suggestions as to what can be done about it.
- Differentiate traditional education in Micronesia from the Western educational system.
- Write an essay on how Western education has influenced the social, political, and cultural beliefs in the islands.
- Discuss the status and condition of the health system in the FSM.
- Discuss by comparing and contrasting traditional Micronesian gender roles with the modern day Micronesian gender roles.
- Write a critical essay on how modernity has influenced Micronesian gender roles and how this has in turn influence the contemporary societies in Micronesia.

## II. COURSE CONTENT

1. Traditional Societies in the Micronesian region
2. Impact of modernization on Micronesian traditions
3. Pre and post-colonialism in Micronesia
4. Modern politics, government and the Compact of Free Association
5. Economic Development and its impact on the islands' environment
6. Leadership and its influence on contemporary issues
7. Population growth and its implication to the contemporary issues in Micronesia
8. Western education vs. Traditional Micronesian educational system
9. Health issues in Micronesia
10. Gender roles and gender issues in Micronesia

## III. TEXTBOOK & REFERENCES

Hezel, S. J. (2001). The new shape of old island cultures: A half-century of social change in Micronesia. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press.

## IV. REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

None

## V. REFERENCE MATERIALS

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 Lindstorm (ed.) . Stanford University Press 1997.
5. A Micronesia 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 Lindstorm (ed.) Stanford University Press 1997.
6. FSM and State Constitutions (<http://fsmlaw.org/>)
7. A leap into the unknown
8. The Dilemmas of Development; Effects of modernization on three areas of island life
9. Culture in crisis: Trends in the Pacific today
10. Micronesia migration since World War II
11. A hibiscus in the wind: the Micronesia chief and his people
12. Bring Health Care to the people: A Look at Dispensaries in the FSM
13. Here's Where We're Headed, Which Way Should We Be Going?

14. What Should Our Schools Be Doing?
15. How Good Are Our Schools?
16. The Myth of Education: A Second Look
17. Insuring Our Health: Financing Health Care in the FSM
18. Compact of Free Association Renegotiation
19. U.S. Proposes Amended Compact of Free Association Funding for the Federated States of Micronesia.
20. Third FSM Constitutional Convention
21. GAO: Foreign assistance effectiveness and accountability problems common in U.S. programs to assist two Micronesian nations.
22. Educational Trouble in Paradise: Micronesian Multicultural Perspectives (<http://www.csupomona.edu/~fjbaker/home/microneiaarticle.html>)

## **VI. INSTRUCTIONAL COST**

None

## **VII. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

Because this is an online course, it is much like an independent class. Therefore students are expected to be responsible for the reading, on-line assignments, and board discussions. Students should always refer to the schedule page to see assigned readings from textbook and Internet, due dates of assignments, and changes to schedule. If students have any questions, they will email the lead instructor at the given email address.

### **Reading and Assignments:**

The required readings for each topic are listed in the schedule page. All the assigned readings will be from the required textbook and the Internet for students to either print or read online. The online assignments for each week should be turned in before or as the date is indicated, if a student fails to do so, it will be considered late. Late assignments will have points deducted.

### **Examinations:**

There will be in-class midterm and final examinations based on the assigned reading materials. Both the exams will be in essay format.

## **VIII. STUDENT EVALUATION**

Grades will be based on students' webexercises (assignments), board discussions, and examinations.

### **1) WebExercises and Essays:**

WebExercises are geared toward helping students synthesize and apply their readings and activities. Students are expected to make use of the readings and resources in the class as well as incorporating their own experiences and insights as they respond to the questions posed by these exercises.

WebExercises are done individually, however students are, welcome to confer with classmates and others in. the completion of the exercise.

## **2) Mid-term exam:**

The midterm examination will be based on the assigned readings and activities from the first week to 6th week of class. The exam will be in-class and all essay questions, each question varying from 15 to 20 points each with a total of 100 paints.

## **3) Final Exam:**

The final examination will be based on the assigned reading and activities from the 8th week to the 15th week of class. The exam will be in-class and all essay questions, each question varying from 15 to 20 points each with a total of 100 paints.

## **4) Discussion Board:**

A question or topic of discussion will be posted each week where students are required to participate by posting an analytical comment based on an understanding of materials presented that week. Students are required to participate at least once a week; if they fail to do so, points will be deducted.

## **5) Grading:**

Grades will be based on online assignments, board discussions, and examinations. The break down is as follows:

- Assignments = 50%
- Mid-term = 20%
- Final = 20%
- Discussion Board= 10%

Above will be based on the following grading scale:

A = Outstanding B = Above average; C = Average D = Below average F = Failing.

<b>90 - 100 = A</b>
<b>80 - 89 = B</b>
<b>70 - 79 = C</b>
<b>60 - 69 = D</b>
<b>59 or below = F</b>

## **IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The student's attendance in this class is governed by the COM-FSM class attendance policy.

## **X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

The student's attendance in this class is governed by the COM-FSM academic honesty policy.