



UNIBETSEDĀT GUÅHAN

University of Guam  
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Fañomnåkan 2025**

## EN 461/561 / WG 461/461G Pacific Women Writers Course Syllabus (January 22 – May 23, 2025)

### Section Information

**Section:** 01

**Days/Time:** Th/2:00-4:50pm

**Location:** HSS203

**Format:** Hybrid

### Instructor Information

**Name:** Dr. Kisha Borja-Quichocho-Calvo

**Email:** [kquichocho@triton.uog.edu](mailto:kquichocho@triton.uog.edu)

**Office Phone Number:** 735-2821

**Office Hours (HSS120i):**

M – 12:00pm-2:00pm

W – 12:00pm-2:00pm

Th – 12:00pm-2:00pm

By appointment

### Course Description

#### Catalog Description

This course entails an intensive study of representative works of Pacific women writers to acquaint students with the contours of this emerging literature in terms of styles, themes, symbols, images, language, politics, and subject. Students will gain an understanding of the place of this literature in the larger context of Pacific Literature, Women's Literature, Minority Literature, and Contemporary Literature in English. Prerequisite: Any 200-level literature course or consent of instructor.

#### Course Details

This semester, we will be focusing on key issues for today's Pacific Island women: 1) militarization and its effects, 2) Identity and displacement; 3) healing the wounds of colonialism; and 4) mythos in the postmodern.

#### Instructor's Notes

- During this semester, there will be much discussion and sharing of opinions. In order to create a safe space for discussions, we must respect each other's beliefs and opinions. People do not have to fully agree with each other but must remain open to listening to others. Disrespecting others will not be tolerated.
- Throughout the semester, you will be given several assignments and tasks. Do your best to keep up. Please keep lines of communication open. If you need help, let me know, and I will do my best to support you. You can also email me or schedule a meeting with me.

## Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the genealogy, diversity, extent, and complexity of the writings of the Pacific women writers studied;
2. Analyze the context and writings of Pacific Island women writers against the broader field of literature, as well as popular culture;
3. Demonstrate knowledge of various contemporary Pacific women writers and the genres they employ;
4. Demonstrate familiarity with some key theoretical issues related to the writings and lives of Pacific Island women;
5. Exhibit knowledge and skill in applying the principles of literary analysis to this genre;
6. Write effective, thesis-driven critical essays about a specific novel;
7. Demonstrate the ability to compare various source materials and critically evaluate their reliability and validity;
8. Demonstrate the ability to use bibliographic research techniques.

## UOG Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLO)

The expected fundamental knowledge, skills, and values that the University of Guam student will have demonstrated upon completion of any degree are:

1. Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving
2. Mastery of quantitative analysis
3. Effective oral and written communication
4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas, and values in a democratic context
5. Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology
6. An appreciation of the arts and sciences
7. An interest in personal development and lifelong learning.

For more clarification and examples of how students might demonstrate the ISLOs, see <https://url.uog.edu/islos>

## Course Requirements

### 1. Required Course Materials

- The following books are needed for the course:
  - *Indigenous Literatures from Micronesia*, edited by Evelyn Flores and Emelihter Kihleng, 2019, Micronesia
  - *Island of Shattered Dreams*, Chantal T. Spitz, 1991, translated by Jean Anderson, 2007, Tahitian
  - *My Place*, Sally Morgan, Australian Aboriginal, first published 1987 (online)
  - *Potiki*, Patricia Grace, 1986, Maori
  - *Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen*, Queen Lili'uokalani, 1898 (re-published in 2013), Hawaiian
- Other course content will be accessible through Moodle.

### 2. Online Tools

For this course, you will need to have regular access to your UOG email and Moodle.

### 3. Recommended Website – [Purdue Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) (for APA writing format)

## Coursework

Students will be graded on the following assignments. Below are the descriptions and weights for each assignment. Specific guidelines and evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor (via rubrics) prior to the assignment deadlines. Written assignments will typically be submitted via Moodle.

1. **Attendance and Participation (5pts/week; 10% of total grade) (ILO 7)** – Students are expected to attend class regularly and to actively participate in discussions and activities. Active participation demonstrates students' understanding of and engagement with the content, so if a student attends class and actively participates, then they will receive full credit. If a student attends class but does not participate, then they will receive only partial credit. In preparation for class, students should read/watch and annotate all assigned content. **If students feel they are not prepared for class, they should not attend.**
2. **Weekly Discussion Forums (10pts/week; 15% of total grade) (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7)** – Students will read/watch and annotate all assigned course content and will engage in weekly online discussions. Every week, students will **post one critical thinking discussion question** (Peer Question) which relates to the assigned content and demonstrates their understanding of the content. Students will **respond to two Peer Questions**. Peer Questions and Peer Responses must demonstrate that students read/watched the assigned content. (Moodle)
3. **The Critical Presentation (50pts, 20% of total grade) (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)** – Students will present on a key word (or theme), examining the author's production, its history and issues, and the text's moves through the lens of this key word. For undergraduate students, you may present individually or in pairs, and your presentations must incorporate at least two literary analyses. For graduate students, you will present individually, and presentations must incorporate at least three literary analysis sources. Key words must include theoretical ramifications. Students should also turn in 2-3 pages of well-organized presentation notes.  
**Example:** *My Place* (Morgan): The title of this text centers around the idea of "place." Examine three different allusions to space or place in the reading for today. Relate these allusions to displacement and/or emplacement.
4. **The Research Paper (120pts: Draft 1 [15pts], Draft 2 [25pts], Final Draft [20pts]; Working Bibliography [30pts]; Presentation [30pts]; 40% of total grade) (SLO 1-8)** – This paper is an argumentative analysis of one of the novels focusing on a specific theme, issue, strategy, or development in the novel. This theme, issue, or strategy or development will become the theoretical foundation of your paper. It should be based on our CP readings and on research you've done. Other options that may enrich your major study may be explored with the approval of the professor. See Research Paper Handout for further detail.

Papers will be workshopped in stages. For the Working Bibliography, students should include 15 to 20 sources, with at least three academic journal articles. Graduate students: Of your 15-20 Working Bibliography sources, 10 must be annotated. Choose the sources you find the most useful for your research and annotate those. Annotations should include: 1) the thesis of the work; 2) three key points; and 3) its usefulness to your research paper. Length of Paper – Undergraduate students: 8-10 pages / Graduate students: 10-15 pages **(Moodle)**

5. **Service Project (30pts, 10% of total grade) (ILO 6 and 7)** – Students will contribute two hours of service to the 2025 Inacha'igen Fino' CHamoru. Students will submit a log sheet with the time and tasks completed as well as a one-page reflection. The Inacha'igen is on March 5-6 (**Moodle**)
6. **Course Reflection and Self-assessment (10 pts, 5% of total grade) (ILO 7)** – Students will write a one-page reflection on what they learned in the course (and if applicable, what they will do with the information beyond the course). They will also evaluate their performance in the course by reviewing their personal and peer engagement and completion of course assignments. (Essentially, students will grade themselves and provide the rationale for their grades.) (**Moodle**)

**Extra Credit:** For extra credit, students can attend up to two meetings/webinars/events that are related to the course (refer to the calendar for course themes). They must submit one-page reflections on the meetings/webinars/events (one per event). (Questions to address in the reflections: What was the purpose of the meeting/event? How did the meeting/event relate to the course? What were the students' overall impressions and reflections?) (**Moodle**)

**\*Note: All assignments should be proofread prior to submission. Review all assignments for content, organization, and grammatical errors.**

### **Guidelines for Typed Assignments**

- Name, date, and course in the top righthand corner
- One-inch margins
- Times New Roman
- Size 12 pt
- Double spaced

### **Grading Scale**

<b>A+</b>	98-100%	4.00	<b>B-</b>	80-82%	2.67
<b>A</b>	93-97%	4.00	<b>C+</b>	77-79%	2.33
<b>A-</b>	90-92%	3.67	<b>C</b>	70-76%	2.00
<b>B+</b>	87-89%	3.33	<b>D</b>	60-69%	1.00
<b>B</b>	83-86%	3.00	<b>F</b>	Below 60%	0.00
<b>I</b>	Incomplete				
<b>NC</b>	No Credit				
<b>UW</b>	Unofficial withdrawal assigned by Registrar – Student stopped attending classes and did not submit/file required documents.				
<b>W</b>	Withdrawal assigned by Registrar – Student stopped attending classes and submits/files required documents.				

### **Class and Online Communication Etiquette**

- Be mindful of yourself and of others.
- Be respectful when sharing and posting. Avoid using profanity and racist, sexist, and derogatory language. This kind of behavior will not be tolerated.
- Do not share peers' information and opinions beyond the context of this class.
- **When sending an e-mail to the instructor: Be professional. Greet and address the**

**instructor. Do not use slang. Check for incorrect spellings or grammatical errors. Sign off.**

## **Course and Program Policies**

### **Assignment Submission Policy**

All assignments should be submitted on the specified due date. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Be sure to plan and prepare accordingly.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance in this class is vital. Regular and punctual attendance is integral to learning in this course. Students should arrive promptly to the synchronous sessions. If special circumstances make punctuality difficult, please discuss this with the instructor. Students are responsible for obtaining all information, assignments, and handouts distributed during the session(s) missed.

The instructor may advise students with four or more absences to withdraw from the course, as passing the course may be unattainable. In this case, it will be the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course, with the understanding that the student will otherwise receive an "F" grade for the semester.

### **Make-Up Assignments Policy**

Under extenuating circumstances, students will be able to submit late assignments. However, they cannot make up scheduled presentations and quizzes.

## **University Policies and Student Services**

### **EEO/ADA/Title IX Policies and Commitment to Student Learning**

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. Federal and local laws protect the University community from any act of sex discrimination. Such acts violate the essential dignity of our community members. If you need assistance with EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) and/or Title IX concerns, contact the director of EEO/ADA and Title IX Office, located in Dorm 2 Iya Hami Hall, Room 104: (671) 735-2244, (671) 735-2971, or [eeo-ada@triton.uog.edu](mailto:eeo-ada@triton.uog.edu)

### **ADA Accommodation Services**

If you are a student with a disability who will require an academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodations Office to discuss your confidential request. Please provide an accommodation letter from the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor. To register for academic accommodations, visit the Enrollment Management & Student Success, Student Services Office, located at the School of Education, Room 110, or contact Sallie Sablan (Disability Support Specialist) at: [disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu](mailto:disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu) or telephone: (671) 735-2460.

### **Plagiarism Policy**

**Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated in this course.** The University of Guam defines plagiarism in the Student Code of Conduct as follows: "The term 'plagiarism' includes, but is not limited to the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of

term papers or other academic materials” (p. 35). Plagiarism will result in the failure of the assignment. For more serious consequences, the student will be referred to the Student Discipline and Appeals Committee.

**Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a research tool is allowed, but it must not replace the student’s original ideas, creativity, and critical thinking. AI should be used only as a tool to assist in research, and proper attribution must be given to any AI-generated content. All work submitted for grading must be the sole product of the student’s endeavors. **Any violation of academic integrity will be dealt with accordingly.**

**Counseling Services and Other Additional Resources**

**Student Counseling and Wellness Center:** Contact the Wellness Coordinator, Venus Ituralde: (671) 735-2890; [wellness@triton.uog.edu](mailto:wellness@triton.uog.edu) (location: HSS103)

**I Pinangon Campus Suicide Prevention Program:** (671) 735-2888; [ipinangon@triton.uog.edu](mailto:ipinangon@triton.uog.edu) (location: HSS212)

**Writing Center**

If you need help with your writing assignments, contact the Writing Center: [writingcenter@uog.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uog.edu) (location: EC204)

**Campus Security (G4S):** (671) 888-2456

**Note: Guidelines and requirements listed in this course syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate student progress, semester challenges, health crises, or natural disasters.**