

**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**AN421: CROSS-CULTURAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN GUAM AND MICRONESIA
SPRING 2025 SYLLABUS**

Dr. David Atienza. Asst. Prof. of Anthropology. CLASS

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Office Hours: M/T/W 10:00 – 12:00

CLASS MEETINGS

AN421: T/TH 2:00 – 3:20

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course analyzes and evaluates the changing cultural patterns of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Republic of Belau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshalls Islands. New techniques and materials in the social science area pertaining to cross-cultural understanding are considered.

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE

Cultures are dynamic systems; therefore, the process of change has been present in every culture, every time. Changes are inherent to life and culture since they behave as complex systems. In this course, we will analyze, from an anthropological perspective, these processes in Guam and Micronesia especially when they generate “problems.” To do so it is important to develop first, a communicative approach to the matter; and second, descriptive and analytic work is required. Change is generated whether by internal or external causes, but both involve communication intra or inter-ethnic. After “grounding” our theoretical frame we will analyze different social problems or conditions that affect Guam and Micronesia. Participants in this course will develop a theoretical framework and a different sensibility towards other cultures, being able to act as cultural brokers. This course is recommended especially to all those who will interact in their daily work with people from other cultures: anthropologists, nurses, teachers, social workers, etc.

**** LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR STUDENTS**

| Course SLOs | Program SLOs | University ILOs | Assessment Methods |
|---|---|---|---|
| With successful completion of the course, students will be able to: | | | |
| research and analyze cultural roots of social problems and conditions in Guam and Micronesia within a cross-cultural perspective. | SLO2. Utilized the concept of cultures as a fundamental organizing concept of anthropology; SLO4. Collect anthropological data according to accepted professional anthropological practices; and SLO5. Analyze anthropological data in both oral and written forms. | ILO1. Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving ILO2. Mastery of quantitative analysis ILO3. Effective oral and written communication ILO4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas, and values in a democratic context ILO6. An appreciation of arts and sciences ILO7. An interest in personal development and lifelong learning | Assignment 3: case study research Assignment 1: Reading Test |
| They will manage several theories of | SLO1. Understand the current issues and debates | ILO3. Effective oral and written communication | Assignment 2: class presentations. |

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| communication that will make them able to be vehicles of understanding between cultures. | in the subfields of anthropology. SLO3. Articulate knowledge of the history and theories of anthropology. | ILO4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas, and values in a democratic context ILO6. An appreciation of arts and sciences ILO7. An interest in personal development and lifelong learning | Assignment 1: Reading Test |
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REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

I **require** the introductory book: Glenn Petersen. 2009. *Traditional Micronesian Societies. Adaptation, Integration, and Political Organization*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press (Amazon price: 32.84\$), and I **recommend**: Hezel, Francis X. *Making Sense of Micronesia: The Logic of Pacific Island Culture*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2013. In addition, we will use other **required readings** that will be available online at Moodle.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The method of instruction will follow a communicative and collaborative schema that would develop inductive processes in the participants. Through lectures, weekly classroom activities, videos, presentations, and discussions, the participants will be able to be the protagonist of their learning process. Readings and video guides will be provided by the instructor if needed. The course will be adjusted according to the necessities of the students, always maintaining a high standard of quality in their contents. Active participation will be highly valued for the final grade. **As a Senior Level Course, students must participate actively in the development of the sessions. The instructor will lead units 1 to 8. Units 9 to 12 will be guided by participants' readings and presentations.** Students are asked to give their opinion or show their doubts or different points of view. These will enrich the sessions.

AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES

During the sessions, films and additional audiovisual material will be provided by the instructor or participants.

COURSE UNITS AND READINGS

1. DEFINING CROSS-CULTURAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

18, 27-29 January

READINGS:

- Hezel, Francis.** 1999. "American Anthropology's Contribution to Social problems Research in Micronesia." In Kiste, Robert & Mac Marshall (ed.) *American anthropology in Micronesia*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. Pp: 301-326.
- Besnier, Niko.** 2001. "Polynesia and Micronesia: Sociocultural Aspects." In Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Baltes, (eds.) In *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Vol. 17, pp. 11723-11727. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- Schneider, Jacqueline.** 2006. "Social Problems." In Bryan S. Turner (ed.). *The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 581-553

2. DEFINING MICRONESIA

3 – 5 February

READINGS:

Kiste, Robert & Suzanne Falgout. 1999. "Anthropology and Micronesia: The context." In Robert Kiste & Mac Marshall. *American Anthropology in Micronesia*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. Pp. 1-11.

Rainbird, Paul. 2003. "Taking the Tapu. Defining Micronesia by Absence" *The Journal of Pacific History*, 38 (2):237-250.

Hanlon, David. 2009 "The "Sea of Little Lands": Examining Micronesia's Place in "Our Sea of Islands." *The Contemporary Pacific*, 21 (1): 91-110.

3. CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

10 – 12 February

READINGS:

Miner, Horace. 1956. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema." *The American Anthropologist* 58: 503-7.

Priscilla, Medeiros. "The Culture Concept." In *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology*, by Nina Brown, Thomas. F McIlwraith, and Laura Tubelle de Gonzalez, 29-44. Arlington: American Anthropological Association, 2020.

4. CULTURES OF MICRONESIA

17-26 February

READINGS:

Alkire, William H. *An Introduction to the Peoples and Cultures of Micronesia*. California: Cummings Publishing Company, 1977.

Petersen, Glenn. *Traditional Micronesian Societies: Adaptation, Integration, and Political Organization*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2009.

5. THE GENESIS OF CROSS-CULTURAL PROBLEMS IN COMMUNICATIVE DEFICIT: SOCIOLINGUISTIC AND CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION.

5 – 10 March

READINGS:

Gudykunst, William & Carmen Lee. 2001. "Cross-Cultural Communication Theories." In Gudykunst, William & Bella Mody. (eds.) *Handbook of International and Intercultural Communication*. London: Sage. Pp. 25-50.

Scollon, Ron & Suzanne Wong. 2001. *Intercultural Communication*. Oxford: Blackwell. Pp. 266-285.

6. RESEARCH METHODS FOR SOCIAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL PROBLEMS IN GUAM AND MICRONESIA.

27 February - March 1

READINGS:

VV.AA. 2010. Cultural Anthropology/Anthropological Methods. Wikibook.
http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Cultural_Anthropology/Anthropological_Methods
 (08/12/10)

7. ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS AND WRITING ETHNOGRAPHIES

8-13-15 March

LECTURE: March 4, 2021.

READINGS:

Nelson, Katy, "Doing Fieldwork" *Perspectives*, Pp. 45-69.

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*.

1st ed.

University of Chicago Press, 1995. Pp. 143-210

ASSIGNMENT 1. Reading Test. A short test will be given to verify that the main concepts have been integrated and readings have been done. This reading test will include questions from the book of Petersen. (March 11)

8. IDENTITY IN GUAM AND MICRONESIA.

27-29 March

LECTURE: March 18, 2021.

READINGS:

Driver, Marjorie. 2004. *The Account of Fray Juan Pobre's Residence in the Marianas, 1602*. Guam: MARC.

Garcia, Francisco. 1683. *The life and Martyrdom of the Venerable Father Diego Luis de San Vitores*.

McDonough, James (ed.). 2004. Book III: Chapters I-III. Guam: MARC. Pp. 165-181.

Atienza, D. 2013. "A Mariana Island history story: The influence of the Spanish Black Legend in Mariana Islands historiography." *Pacific Asia Inquiry*, 4(1), Pp. 13–29.

9. ASSIGNMENT 2: Students' presentations

3-26 April

TOPICS:

- Colonialism, Power, and Change in Micronesia
- Identity in Guam and Micronesia
- Suicide in Micronesia
- Health and Addictions
- Cultural Lost
- Population and Migration
- Marriage and Family
- Masculinities in Guam and Micronesia

10. ASSIGNMENT 3: Case Study Research.

1-10 May

Students in groups will research, describe, and analyze one Social Problem of Guam and Micronesia during the last two weeks using anthropological and sociological methodologies. Topics will be generated in class through discussions among all participants. After class presentation and discussion, a written paper (no less than 1000 words) with the conclusions and all the material used must be submitted. (*Due on May 15*)

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required to pass this course. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you attend class after a roll call has been taken, you may still add your attendance to the class roster at the end of the course, but mark "L" for late. Class attendance is factored into the final grade. If, without any explanation, a student miss classes for three weeks consecutively, the lecturer may assume they have withdrawn from the course. Please email your lecturer if you are absent due to illness or any other reason. You will find me sympathetic to communication.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR GRADING

ASSIGNMENT 1: READING TEST. A short test will be given on the required readings proposed by the instructor.

ASSIGNMENT 2: STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS. The participants will present a primary bibliography and the main contents of the topic they selected among those proposed by the instructor.

ASSIGNMENT 3: CASE STUDY RESEARCH. Students in groups will describe and analyze a Social Problem in Guam using anthropological and sociological methodologies. After the class presentation and discussion, a written paper with the conclusion must be submitted.

GRADE ALLOCATION

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|------------------------------------|-----|
| ASSIGNMENT 1: READING TEST | 10% |
| ASSIGNMENT 2: CLASS PRESENTATIONS. | 40% |
| ASSIGNMENT 3: CASE STUDY RESEARCH | 40% |
| ATTENDANCE AND IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES | 10% |

The final grade awarded appears as a letter:

| | | |
|----|--------|-------------|
| A+ | 98-100 | Outstanding |
| A | 93-97 | |
| A- | 90-92 | |
| B+ | 89-87 | Good |
| B | 83-86 | |
| B- | 80-82 | |
| C+ | 77-79 | Adequate |
| C | 70-76 | |
| D | 60-69 | Deficient |
| F | <60 | Failure |

ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA

Assignment grades are based on student's ability to demonstrate their knowledge of the set literature, films, and lecture materials. Each assignment **MUST** relate to the course materials (readings and movies), or it will be considered **IRRELEVANT** and may receive an "F" grade. Essays must include a list of references discussed in the essay's body, and these references should be drawn from the course materials. Additional materials addressed outside of the AN421 curriculum may earn some extra credit if deemed appropriate; however, supplementary materials should not be replaced but accompany a discussion of the readings provided in the course pack.

PLAGIARISM

The UOG Student Handbook prohibits plagiarism. Evidence of plagiarism in any assignment may result in an "F" grade and a hearing at the Student Discipline Committee.

ADA STATEMENT

If you are a student with a disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact me or the Institutional Compliance Officer privately to discuss your specific needs. You will need to provide me with documentation concerning your need for accommodations(s) from the EEO/ADA & TITLE IX Office. If you have not registered with the EEO/ADA & TITLE IX Office, you should do so immediately at 735-2244, (TTY) 735-2243 to coordinate your accommodations request.

INFLUENZA NOTICE TO STUDENTS

If you feel ill with flu-like symptoms, please stay home and contact me by phone or email beforehand to decide to accommodate your absence from class. If needed, contact your health care profession or Public Health for evaluation.