

# Spring 2025 Course Syllabus

HI 243: History of Micronesia (Tue, Th 4:00 -5:20)

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**Catalog Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the traditional and western history of the Micronesian Islands.

During the course of the semester, the focus of Micronesian history will be on Republic of Belau, Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Mariana Islands, and Nauru. We will cover a wide variety of historical topics, including pre-contact Micronesia, contact Micronesia, and present day Micronesia inclusive of contemporary struggles for political and cultural sovereignty throughout Micronesia.

Students will learn, understand, and interpret the histories and historiographies of:

- Micronesia's pre-colonial past with attention to navigation and settlement, inter-island interactions, social and material culture etc...;
- Contact and interactions between Micronesians and Whalers, Traders, Missionaries and, and Miners;
- Spanish, German, Japanese, and American administrations in Micronesia
- Wartime oppression and postwar imperialism in Micronesia
- Post-war economic, political, and cultural challenges throughout the region.

A project on a specific topic in Micronesia is required with a 3-5 page write up. Students must also present their project in class to share the wealth with their classmates. Topics must be approved by the instructor first.

Short quizzes will be given and be announced in advance in class.

**Note: All cell phones must be turned off during class period.**

Attendance will be calculated into students' final grade. *See below for the breakdown.*

## Suggested readings;

Francis X. Hezel, *The First Taint of Civilization: A History of the Marshall and Caroline Islands in the Pre-Colonial Days, 1521 to 1885*; Francis X. Hezel, *Strangers in Their Own Land*; and **others** that may be announced in class.

Final grade will be based on the following:

Project-----	35%
Final exam-----	40%
Quizzes/other assignments.....	20%
Attendance .....	5%

## **TENTATIVE DAILY SCHEDULE**

### **Date**

### **Lecture Title**

#### Week 1:

Th, Jan. 23

Introduction of the course & syllabus review

#### Week 2:

Tue, Jan 28

Myths and legends of Micronesia/islands formation

Th, Jan. 30

Settlement in Micronesia; Micronesian roots

#### Week 3:

Tue, Feb. 4

Traditional social structure

Th, Feb. 6

Traditional Education in Micronesia (**myth & legend assignment due**)

#### Week 4

Tue, Feb. 11

Cultural practices in Micronesia

Th, Feb. 13

Navigation

#### Week 5

Tue, Feb 18

The way of sawei/ Sacred grounds and spirits

Th, Feb 20

1<sup>st</sup> European contact in Micronesia

#### Week 6

Tue, Feb 25

Challenging conversion; Landing of the new faith

Th, Feb 27

Whaling and Trading in Micronesia

#### Week 7

Tue, Mar. 4

German & Spanish occupation

Th, Mar. 6

CHARTER DAY (NO CLASS)

#### Week 8

Tue, Mar. 11

Japanese occupation

Th, Mar. 13

Mining in Micronesia

### **SPRING SEMESTER BREAK MAR. 17 -22**

#### Week 9

Tue, Mar. 25

World War II in Micronesia

Th, Mar. 27

Americanization of Micronesia (**icon assignment due**)

#### Week 10

Tue, April 1    Micronesia under new direction

Th, April 3    Contemporary issues in Micronesia

#### Week 11

Tue, April 8 -----Nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands

Th, April. 10 ----- **Open topics in Micronesia**

Week 12

Tue, April 15 ----- - TTPI: Trusteeship Agreement /Post war Micronesia, “Solomon Report”

Th, April 17 ----- Future status of TTPI

Week 13

Tue, April.22 ----- Compact Negotiation **(100 words due)**

Th, April. 24 ----- open (enrichment topic/students’ presentation)

Week 14

Tue, April 29 -----open (enrichment topic/students’ presentation)

Th, May 1-----open (enrichment topic/students’ presentation)

Week 15

Tue May 6 -----open (enrichment topic/students’ presentation)

Th May 8 -----open (enrichment topic/students’ presentation)

Week 16

Tue, May 13-----Review

Th, May 15-----Last day of instruction

May. 19- 21 -----Exams

May 23-----End of Semester

May 25-----Commencement