Course Outline for Ethnic Studies 6
INTRO TO PACIFIC ISLANDS AND OCEANIA STUDIES

Catalog Description:
ES 6 - Intro to Pacific Islands and Oceania Studies 3.00 units
This course is an introduction to the political, economical, historical and socio-cultural studies of the Pacific Islands and Oceania and its Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian communities. An examination of Oceania's history through the pre-colonial period and present events and issues. Colonialism, immigration, identity, environment, and the creative expression of the people of Oceania throughout the diaspora are a few of the main themes. Groups include: Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Samoan American, Tongan, Maori, Tahitian. Fijian, Solomon Islanders, Chamorro, Papua New Guinea, Palauan, Marshallese, and Native American.
Requisites: none
Grading Option: Optional

Discipline:

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<th>Type</th>
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<th>Inside of Class Hours</th>
<th>Outside of Class Hours</th>
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Prerequisite Skills:
None

Measurable Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Investigate pre-colonial societal, political, and economic structures in the Pacific Islands and Oceania;
2. Explain pre-colonial cultural practices related to identity, gender, family, and creation stories;
3. Compare and contrast the diverse communities that fall under the broader categorization of Pacific Islander, including the regions of Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia;
4. Critically analyze the relationship between and the impact of colonialism, imperialism, militarism, and Christian missionaries by the U.S. and European nations on Pacific Island communities;
5. Evaluate historical and contemporary issues of the Pacific Islands and Oceania, as related to politics, government, land use, ecology, economics, tourism, health, education, and militarism;
6. Identify push/pull reasons for Pacific Islander migration between islands, the state of Hawai'i, Pacific territories, and mainland U.S.;
7. Describe the pressures and effects of cultural, psychological, and social acculturation that Pacific Islanders experience both within the contiguous U.S., and the Pacific Islands;
8. Analyze the significance of sovereignty movements, decolonialism, anti-militarism, and cultural resistance movements in the Pacific Islands and Oceania, especially in U.S. territories;
9. Critically assess the concept of intersectionality as it applies to the experiences and perspectives of women, gender nonconforming, and LGBTQ communities;
10. Review and critique media stereotypes that marginalize or negatively impact Pacific Islanders and as they relate to tourism and cultural appropriation;
11. Demonstrate and evaluate the movement for Pacific Islands Studies, Oceania Studies, and Critical Pacific Islands Studies as academic disciplines and how it fits within the broader context of ethnic studies.

Course Content:
1. Geography of the Pacific Islands and Oceania, subgroupings, nations, and cultural identities as related to precolonial definitions and contemporary groupings, such as Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia
2. Pre-colonial Societies
   A. Creation stories, rituals, and belief systems
   B. Family, kinship, and gender roles
   C. Navigation and migration
   D. Trade and economy
   E. Political organization
3. Colonialism, Militarism, and Christian Missionaries
A. Colonialism by Spain, France, U.S., the British Empire, Chile, and Indonesia
B. Impact of Christian missionaries on colonialism, settlement, culture
C. Illegal annexation of Hawai‘i by the U.S.
D. Sugar plantations
E. Impact on diet and health
F. Labor and economic impact
G. Relocation and migration patterns
H. Military bases, nuclear testing, military recruitment, vet services

4. Diasporic Communities and Identity
   A. Family and cultural expectations for children
   B. Gender roles
   C. Impact of colonialism and Christianity on gender and culture
   D. Loss of language and identity
   E. Acculturation
   F. Inter-group conflict
   G. Pride and celebration related to cultural heritage and practices

5. Environment
   A. Impact of rising sea levels and increasing extreme weather patterns due to global warming
   B. Mass fishing and water rights
   C. Ocean pollution
   D. Ecological effects of tourism and commercial development
   E. Land access
   F. Geothermal development

6. Education
   A. Hawai‘i an schools
   B. Pacific Islands Studies and Ethnic Studies
   C. Challenges and inequality in higher education
   D. School-to-Prison pipeline and incarceration rates for Pacific Islanders in the U.S.

7. Social Movements
   A. Sovereignty movements
   B. Art and cultural resistance
   C. Climate Justice movement

8. Health
   A. Major health issues related to diet, access to resources
   B. Toxic effects due to war and military activities such as environmental degradation and radioactivity

9. Representations in Media and Tourism
   A. Cultural appropriation and commercialization
   B. Stereotypes
   C. Hollywood, Sports

Methods of Presentation

1. Class and group discussions
2. Community activities/civic engagement projects
3. Discussion Seminar
4. Group Presentations
5. Guest speakers
6. Written assignments
7. Textbook reading assignments
8. Research project
9. Presentation of audio-visual materials
10. Lecture/Discussion

Assignments and Methods of Evaluating Student Progress

1. Typical Assignments
   A. Oral History Project: interview a family member or an elder member of a Pacific Islander community. Base questions on their childhood, immigration, cultural identity, or myths and creation stories from the person’s culture. Write an analysis paper, using themes and topics from readings that are relevant to the interviewee’s oral history.
   B. Representation: Bring in a media sample or a representation of Pacific Islanders or Pacific Islander culture from a movie, article, news site, website, tourist magazine, etc. and present to the class. Analyze what stereotypes persist and connect to historical representations of people from the Pacific Islands, especially during colonialism.
   C. Participatory Action Research Paper and Presentation: Choose an issue impacting the Pacific Islander community and develop a research question. Write a 4-5 page analysis paper and present on the research methodology, process, findings and action steps.
   D. Environmental Issue Essay: Select a topic related to how the environment in the Pacific Islands is impacted by climate change such as rising sea levels; write a five page paper including a bibliography of no less than 5 books/journal articles (must include both sources), using APA style

2. Methods of Evaluating Student Progress
   A. Written assignments
   B. Class Work
   C. Final Examination or Project
   D. Research Projects
   E. Quizzes

3. Student Learning Outcomes
   Upon the completion of this course, the student should be able to:
   A. Analyze the impact of colonialism on Pacific Islander history, identity, and culture and various resistance and decolonial movements
   B. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity within the Pacific Islands and Oceania, and its Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian communities
   C. Examine various social issues impacting the Pacific Islands and how the people of Oceania address these issues

Textbooks (Typical):

Special Student Materials
1. NA
Abbreviated Class Schedule Description:

An introduction to the studies of the Pacific Islands and Oceania and its Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian communities.  
Requisites: none