

**Northern Marianas College**  
**CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST**

**Effective Semester / Session:** Fall 2007

**Type of Action:**

- New
- Modification
- Cancellation
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)

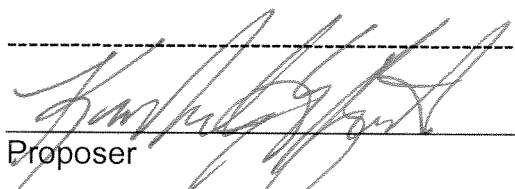



**Course Alpha and Number:** LI 250

**Course Title:** Literature of the Pacific

**Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:**

To reflect change in textbook, new SLOs and inclusion of assessment measures.

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	10/25/07	
Proposer	Date	
	10/25/07	
Department Chair	Date	
	1/17/08	
English and Format Reviewer	Date	
	1/17/08	
Dean of Academic Programs and Services	Date	

# Northern Marianas College Course Guide

Course: LI 250 Literature of the Pacific

## 1. Department

Languages and Humanities

## 2. Purpose

Literature of the Pacific is designed to give students background information (geographical, historical, and cultural) about the major Pacific Island cultures, and literary experiences with both ancient and modern expressions. Literature forms reviewed and analyzed include nonfiction and fiction as well as essays, plays, legends, and myths. Pacific authors studied are representative of Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia and Australia. Indigenous authors and western authors who have written about the Pacific are also studied. This course provides the students with an overview of literature development from oral to written expression. The students will analyze cultural issues, universal themes, and literary ways of transmitting cultural values. This course is also designed to provide students with the skills to conduct interviews and research the CNMI Archives and Pacific Collection to write oral histories, cultural descriptions, and literary analyses.

## 3. Description

### A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required:

Flood, Bo. *Pacific Island Legends: Tales from Micronesia, Melanesia, Polynesia, and Australia*. The Bess Press: Honolulu, HI, 1999.

Readability level: Grade 6.3

London, Jack. *Tales of Hawaii*. Press Pacifica: Honolulu, HI, 1984.

Readability level: Grade 11.1

Perez, Chris H. *Mariquita: A Tragedy of Guam*. Suva, Fiji: Institute of Pacific Studies, 1986.

Readability level: Grade 8.9.

Taylor, Theodore. *The Bomb*. Harcourt Brace: San Diego, CA, 1996.

Readability Level: Grade 10.0

Wendt, Albert. *Leaves of the Banyan Tree*. University of Hawaii Press: Honolulu, HI, 1979.

Readability Level: Grade 12.0

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Recommended:

Flood, Bo, ed. *Marianas Islands Legends: Myth and Magic*. Honolulu, HI: Bess Press 2001.

Related Materials:

In addition, selected readings will be taken from a variety of sources, including Bo Flood's *Marianas Islands Legends*, King David Kalakaua's *The Legends and Myths of Hawaii*, P.F. Kluge's *The Edge of Paradise*, W. Somerset Maugham's *The Trembling of a Leaf*, Lino Olopai's *The Rope of Tradition*, Val Sengebau's *Microchild*, as well as other writings from Pacific authors.

## B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 per semester
2. **Lab:**
3. **Other:**

## C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

## D. Catalogue Course Description

This course familiarizes the student with both the oral and written literary expressions of the Pacific Island cultures. Emphasis is on understanding how the literature of the major Pacific cultural areas reflects the values, history, and geography of each area. The course also surveys both historical and contemporary Pacific writers, both indigenous and western. The students will read, analyze and write a variety of literary forms. Prerequisite: English Placement Level: EN 101

## E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course satisfies the general education requirement for AA degrees and the BS degree in elementary education.

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## F. Course Activities and Design

This course incorporates lectures, demonstrations, class discussions, extensive reading and writing assignments, and a research project presented to the class. As part of the research project, students will be required to select one Pacific culture, prepare an analysis of ancient and contemporary literary expressions of cultural values, and develop a lesson for teaching selected cultural values to an audience (K through adult) of their choice.

## 4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)

Prerequisites: None

English Placement Level: EN 101

## 5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course, instructional materials fee, and the cost of the textbooks.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary

Instructional resources needed for this course include chalk and chalkboard, and audio-visual aids.

## 6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;

B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;

C: Average – grade points: 2.0;

D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;

F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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### 7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Pacific Island Nations and Cultures
  - 1.1 Melanesia
  - 1.2 Micronesia
  - 1.3 Polynesia
  - 1.4 Aboriginal Australia
  
- 2.0 Literary Form and Terms
  - 2.1 Myths, legend, and folklore
  - 2.2 Nonfiction
  - 2.3 Fiction
  - 2.4 Drama, chant, song, and dance
  
- 3.0 Oral Traditional Literature
  - 3.1 The purpose of story-telling
  - 3.2 The analysis of values, issues and lessons
  - 3.3 Universal themes
  - 3.4 Comparisons between the major Pacific cultures
  
- 4.0 Pacific-wide Indigenous Writers
  - 4.1 Fiction
  - 4.2 Poetry, drama, and essays
  - 4.3 Legends, myths and lore
  - 4.4 Regional publications
  
- 5.0 Pacific-wide Non-indigenous Writers
  - 5.1 Historical
  - 5.2 Contemporary
  
- 6.0 Contemporary Pacific Literature
  - 6.1 Cultural issues and themes
  - 6.2 Literary achievements and awards

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### 8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The effects of geography, historical events, migration history and cultural values on the oral literature of the three main cultural areas of the Pacific: Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, and aboriginal Australia;
- 2.0 The basic literary forms and their elements: oral literary traditions, poetry, the types and purposes of essays, the elements of drama, dance, chant, song, and the structure of the novel and short story;
- 3.0 The structural, stylistic and thematic elements of Pacific story-telling and oral literary traditional form;
- 4.0 Notable authors from the various cultural areas of the Pacific as well as notable works of fiction, poetry, plays, essays, and legends;
- 5.0 Notable authors, historical as well as contemporary, who are not originally from the Pacific but have written classic literary expressions about the Pacific both fiction and nonfiction;
- 6.0 The analysis of the historical and contemporary cultural issues, universal themes and ways of transmitting cultural values; and
- 7.0 The development of techniques for conducting an oral history interview, documenting said interview through written retelling or video/CD/DVD format).

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### 9. Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1.0 List and define the three main cultural areas of the Pacific and identify their significant geographical, historical, migratory and cultural attributes and events;
- 2.0 Identify the basic literary forms and describe their unique elements, including oral literary traditions, poetry, essays, drama, dance, chant, song, the novel and short story;
- 3.0 List and describe the structural, stylistic, and key thematic elements in Pacific oral literary forms;
- 4.0 Identify the notable authors from the various cultural areas of the Pacific, as well as their literary works, and resources (publications, publishers, websites) important for academic enrichment and personal enjoyment;
- 5.0 Identify the notable authors, historical and contemporary, who are not from the Pacific but have written about the Pacific and identify their literary works and resources important for academic enrichment and enjoyment;
- 6.0 Define, compare, and analyze the historical and contemporary cultural issues, universal themes, and traditional values which are reflected in historical and contemporary Pacific literature;
- 7.0 Conduct and document an oral history interview.

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## 10. Assessment Measures

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Class attendance and participation;
- 2.0 Literary analysis reflection papers;
- 3.0 Oral history interview, documentation, and presentation;
- 4.0 Quizzes, midterm, and final examination; and
- 5.0 Research project and presentation.