

# Northern Marianas College

## CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Course: LI250 Literature of the Pacific

Effective Semester / Session: Spring 2023

### Type of Action:

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

Course Alpha and Number: LI250

Course Title: Literature of the Pacific

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

This course guide has been revised to reflect changes in textbooks, catalog course description, course activities and design, course outline, instructional goals, and student learning outcomes.

  
Adam Walsh

03.08.2023

Proposer

Date

Ajani Burrell

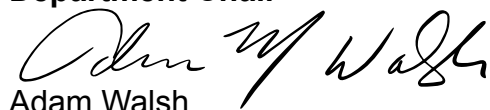


03.08.2023

Department Chair

Date

Adam Walsh



03.08.2023

Language & Format Review Specialist

Date

Ajani Burrell



03.08.2023

Academic Council Chair

Date

Lorraine Maui



03.08.2023

Interim Dean of Academic Programs and Services

Date

**Course:** LI250 Literature of the Pacific

## 1. Department

Languages and Humanities

## 2. Purpose

Literature of the Pacific is designed to give students background information 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, myths, and poetry. 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:

*A Marianas Mosaic: Signs and Shifts in Contemporary Island Life*, edited by Ajani Burrell with Kimberly Bunts-Anderson. University of Guam Press, 2022.

Recent, relevant Pacific Island author publication in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

Recommended: None

### B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 per week / 45 per semester
2. **Lab:** None
3. **Other:** None

### C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular Degree Credits

### D. Catalog Course Description

This course familiarizes the student with both the oral and written literary expressions of 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 and analyze a variety of literary forms. Prerequisite: None; English Placement Level: EN101

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### **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.

### **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.

### **4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment**

Prerequisites: None

Concurrent Course Enrollment: None

### **Required English/Mathematics Proficiency Level(s)**

English Placement Level: EN202

Mathematics Placement Level: None

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

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit hour course, cost of the textbook, and any applicable fees.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary and/or any additional costs to NMC.

Instructional resources needed for this course include: classroom; whiteboard, markers, erasures; and projector or other similar media.

### **6. Method of Evaluation**

Student evaluation of learning will be based on group work, projects, research assignments, and oral presentations. 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 Regions: Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, Aboriginal Australia
  - 1.1 Geographic features
  - 1.2 Historical importance
  - 1.3 Cultural significance
  
- 2.0 Oral Traditions & Histories
  - 2.1 Myths
  - 2.2 Legends
  - 2.3 Folklore
  - 2.4 Chant
  - 2.5 Song
  - 2.6 Dance
  - 2.7 Shared themes
  
- 3.0 Relevant Literary Themes
  - 3.1 Place
  - 3.2 Ritual
  - 3.3 Colonization
  - 3.4 Activism
  
- 4.0 Contemporary Pacific Literature
  - 4.1 Poetry
  - 4.2 Fiction
  - 4.3 Nonfiction

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### 8. Instructional Goals

The course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 Geographical aspects of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia;
- 2.0 Historical aspects of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia;
- 3.0 Cultural aspects of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia;
- 4.0 Analysis of contemporary Pacific Island literature;
- 5.0 Oral histories and traditions of Pacific Island fine arts.

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**9. Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- 1.0 Recognize the geographic features of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia regions;
- 2.0 Examine the historical significance of Pacific Island art/literature;
- 3.0 Identify diverse traditions of various of Pacific Island cultures;
- 4.0 Analyze contemporary Pacific Island literature; and
- 5.0 Create an oral history project.

**10. Assessment Measures of Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- 1.0 Critical Essays;
- 2.0 Oral History Project;
- 3.0 Presentations; and
- 4.0 Exams.