

Mini-class for Fall 2011:

ANTH 399 Introduction to Micronesian Languages: Pohnpeian

Fall 2011 (ANTH 399 Micronesian Lang, 1 to 2 credit hours; instructor permission required)
Class Discussion: tba

Instructor: Professor William Ayres

Class Location: 313 Condon Hall [or TBA]

Office: Condon 273

Office Hours: Office phone number: 346-5119

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COURSE SUMMARY

The class "Introduction to Micronesian Languages: Pohnpeian" (ANTH 399) provides an introductory and practical approach to learning about Micronesian languages, including their history and contemporary use. The course can be taken for 1 or 2 credit hours and class meetings will focus on studying various aspects of Micronesian languages, including how they are related to evidence of colonization of the Pacific Islands. We will do some speaking practice. There is no prerequisite class.

This class—which meets once a week—is designed for students interested in learning about people and languages of the Western Pacific area.

READING MATERIALS

There is no text for this course other than a language training study guide for Pohnpeian which will be discussed at our first class meeting. A selection of articles on Micronesia and the Pohnpeian language will be made available. In addition, we will use the audio and visual material on speaking Pohnpeian produced by Pacific Islands Studies.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to recognize the range of languages spoken in Micronesia and practice the Pohnpeian language, which is spoken today by some 30,000 people, primarily on the island itself.
2. Know some Pohnpeian vocabulary and sentence structure.
3. Understand how language relationships can inform us about patterns of migration and colonization.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course includes both lecture and language practice components. The lecture emphasizes background and theoretical concepts related to Micronesian and other Pacific languages. The language practice takes place as homework and in-class reviews.