

# Northern Marianas College

## CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

**Course:** SO297 Current Issues in the CNMI

**Effective Semester / Session:** Spring 2023

**Type of Action:**

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

**Course Alpha and Number:** SO297

**Course Title:** Current Issues in the CNMI

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

This course is being updated for the change in textbook and proper formatting.

Lorraine Maui



01.10.2023

**Proposer**

Date

Lorraine Maui



01.10.2023

**Academic Unit Head**

Date

Professor Adam Walsh



01.10.23

**Language & Format Review Specialist**

Date

Professor Ajani Burrell



01.10.2023

**Academic Council Chair**

Date

Dean Clement Bermudes



Jan 11, 2023

**Dean of Academic Programs & Services**

Date

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## Course Guide

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**Course:** SO297 Current Issues in the CNMI

### 1. Department

Social Sciences & Fine Arts

### 2. Purpose

SO297 is a core course requirement for all NMC degrees offered by the College. The overall goal of the course is to promote the growth of students as active, competent, and effective participants in the social, cultural, economic, and political development of their community, the Commonwealth, and the world.

### 3. Description

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

Required:

Constitution of the CNMI

Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America

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

*The Properties of Perpetual Light*. Julian Aguon. University of Guam Press, 2021.

Local daily newspapers, articles from other periodicals, government reports, and all other Northern Mariana Islands media, including the Internet.

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

SO297, Current Issues in the CNMI, is a capstone course for all associate degrees, and thus it is to be taken in a student's last semester or next to last semester. For Elementary Education majors, it is to be taken in the second semester of a student's sophomore year or in the first semester of a student's junior year. SO297 is a seminar-format course designed to assist students to

become active, competent, and effective citizens of the CNMI. The course familiarizes students with current and future political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental issues in the CNMI, which are discussed and analyzed as to the solutions explored for said issues. Prerequisite: CO210 with a grade of "C" or better, or concurrent enrollment; EN101 with a grade of "C" or better. English Placement Level: EN202. Math Placement Level: MA091. (Offered Fall and Spring)

**E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course**

This is a core course requirement for all NMC degrees.

**F. Course Activities and Design**

This course incorporates seminar sessions, presentations by guest speakers, weekly readings, and homework related to seminar/guest speaker topics. Students are strongly encouraged to watch televised news broadcasts (local, national, and international), to read the local daily newspapers, to visit relevant websites, and to bring to class articles or other information relating to topics under discussion in the course. In addition, each student will have the option of choosing either a research paper or a group project.

The writing of a 10 to 15-page research paper must be on a current issue of interest to the student. Research paper topics are selected in consultation with the instructor, who suggests resources and provides basic assistance to the student during the research and writing process.

A group of students may choose to do a group project in place of the individual research papers. The project will be chosen by the students and must be approved by the instructor and must have some community relevance and meet a specific community need. It will require that the students organize and work as a team, prepare a set of goals to achieve the project, and assign individuals or small groups to carry out the research, tabulate such results as may be achieved, and prepare a public presentation including but not limited to the PowerPoint describing the project and the results achieved. The bulk of the project will be carried out outside of class time.

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

Prerequisites: Completion of CO210 with a grade of "C" or higher; completion of EN101 with a grade of "C" or higher.

Concurrent Course Enrollment: CO210

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

English Placement Level: EN202

Mathematics Placement Level: MA091

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

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

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

Instructional resources needed for this course include: whiteboard, markers, classroom, and literary publications set aside in the NMC Library.

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

Student evaluation of learning will be based on participation, class discussions, oral reports, homework assignments, and a research project. 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 Political Issues

- 1.1 The Covenant between the US and the CNMI
- 1.2 Immigration
- 1.3 Citizenship and nationality
- 1.4 Voting rights
- 1.5 Elections
- 1.6 The CNMI Constitution and the US Constitution
- 1.7 Land tenure issues: local vs. non-local ownership and usage
- 1.8 The roles and authority of the federal government in the CNMI
- 1.9 The roles and usefulness of the CNMI Delegate to the US House of Representatives
- 1.10 Ethics, corruption, and conflicts-of-interest in the CNMI Government
- 1.11 A unified CNMI identity
- 1.12 Minimum qualifications of elected and appointed government officials
- 1.13 The Executive Branch and local government
- 1.14 Efficiency in government services
- 1.15 Military land-use agreements and military issues
- 1.16 The CNMI budget
- 1.17 Citizen participation

#### 2.0 Economic Issues

- 2.1 Foreign vs. local investment
- 2.2 Inflation
- 2.3 Standard of living
- 2.4 Taxes
- 2.5 Alien and local labor
- 2.6 Tourism and the visitor industry
- 2.7 Wage and salary scales
- 2.8 Unemployment and poverty
- 2.9 The economic effects of Federal takeover of immigration and the minimum wage
- 2.10 The garment manufacturing industry
- 2.11 Land-use planning and zoning
- 2.12 Village homesteads and agricultural homesteads
- 2.13 Land alienation: Article XII
- 2.14 Casino gambling
- 2.15 Economic diversification

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- 3.0 Social and Cultural Issues
  - 3.1 Demographics
  - 3.2 Cultural diversity
  - 3.3 Religious diversity
  - 3.4 Community and cultural values
  - 3.5 Cultural change and conservation
  - 3.6 Languages
  - 3.7 Racial | ethnic prejudice and discrimination
  - 3.8 Health care
  - 3.9 Drug and substance abuse
  - 3.10 Domestic violence
  - 3.11 Suicide
  - 3.12 Teenage pregnancy
  - 3.13 A responsible CNMI society
  - 3.14 The role of elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educational institutions in the CNMI
  - 3.15 Northern Marianas College accreditation issues and status
  - 3.16 Opportunities for youth
  - 3.17 Organized crime
  - 3.18 Prostitution | bar girls
  - 3.19 Labor abuse
  - 3.20 Gambling
  
- 4.0 Environmental Issues
  - 4.1 Terrestrial resources
    - 4.1.1 Forests
    - 4.1.2 Mangrove swamps
    - 4.1.3 Wetlands
    - 4.1.4 Agricultural land
    - 4.1.5 Pastural land
    - 4.1.6 Endangered indigenous species
    - 4.1.7 Introduced species
  - 4.2 Marine resources
    - 4.2.1 Coastal resources
      - 4.2.1.1 Reefs
      - 4.2.1.2 Lagoons
      - 4.2.1.3 Beaches
      - 4.2.1.4 Fisheries
      - 4.2.1.5 Seagrass
      - 4.2.1.6 Recreational and economic uses
    - 4.2.2 Deep-Ocean resources
      - 4.2.2.1 Fisheries
      - 4.2.2.2 The 200-mile exclusive economic zone

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- 4.2.2.3 Iron-Manganese crusts and poly-metallic sulfide deposits
- 4.2.2.4 Precious corals
- 4.2.2.5 Recreational uses
- 4.2.2.6 The Marianas Trench National Monument

### 4.3 Man-Made resources and related issues

- 4.3.1 Power and electricity
- 4.3.2 Water availability and quality
- 4.3.3 Pollution
- 4.3.4 Litter
- 4.3.5 Unexploded ordnance (UXO)
- 4.3.6 Sewage treatment
- 4.3.7 Solid-Waste disposal
- 4.3.8 Public health and sanitation
- 4.3.9 Traffic congestion

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### **8. Instructional Goals**

The course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The interrelationship of the individual and the community the CNMI;
- 2.0 A range of current political, economic, social, cultural, demographic, and environmental issues of relevance to life in the CNMI and the larger world;
- 3.0 The importance of identifying and objectively describing a variety of factors affecting current issues;
- 4.0 The diversity of social and cultural values held by the people of the CNMI;
- 5.0 The experience and value of daily exposure to the news by reading newspapers and watching televised news and community programs;
- 6.0 The process of developing and supporting informed viewpoints and the experience of participating in a forum for the expression and exchange of views;
- 7.0 The process of researching and writing an exploratory paper, 10 to 15 pages in length, and/or participating in and completing a project;
- 8.0 The importance of an informed, aware, and active citizenry to the present and future well-being of the CNMI; and
- 9.0 The use of reflective and reasoning abilities and decision-making skills.



**Course:** SO297 Current Issues in the CNMI

**9. Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- 1.0 Describe the interrelationship of the individual and the community in the CNMI;
- 2.0 Discuss a range of current political, economic, social, cultural, demographic, and environmental issues of relevance to life in the CNMI and the larger world;
- 3.0 Contribute substantively to the level of discussion of a variety of factors affecting current issues;
- 4.0 Show awareness of and an understanding for diverse ethnic customs and lifestyles in the CNMI;
- 5.0 Evaluate news coverage of major issues and events;
- 6.0 Recognize and distinguish differences in opinions on issues and engage in constructive dialogues;
- 7.0 Successfully complete a research paper on a current issue in the CNMI, or successfully participate in the preparation and presentation of a group report on a project on a current issue in the CNMI;
- 8.0 Actively solicit and manage guest speakers on approved topics, engage government agencies and offices in the search for information, and take part in civic projects; and
- 9.0 Apply effective reasoning abilities to specific projects involving community issues.

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

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

- 1.0 Participation in Classroom Discussions;
- 2.0 Written and Oral Reports;
- 3.0 Homework;
- 4.0 Community Projects; and
- 5.0 Research Paper or Group Project.