

# Coastal Ecosystems of Micronesia in a Changing Climate



August 31 – September 23, 2018

## A University of Washington Exploration Seminar in Kosrae, Micronesia (OCEAN 496)

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***Synopsis*** Students in this field-based Exploration Seminar in Kosrae will study & conduct ecological assessments of coral, mangrove & seagrass habitats to understand how development and climate change are impacting the largely pristine coastal ecosystems of this remote island.

Kosrae is the eastern-most island in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in the expansive Caroline Island chain of the western tropical North Pacific Ocean. Magnificent mangrove swamps and coral reefs surround much of the coastline. With just over 7,000 people, and minimal tourism or industry, Kosrae's 42 square miles of lush mountainous terrain remain largely undisturbed and stunningly beautiful. Closely connected to land and sea, Kosraeans are deeply rooted in their cultural heritage and traditions, while being gracious and hospitable to visitors.

In this **23-day, 5-credit course**, students will apply basic principles of biology, ecology, oceanography, & geology to develop an understanding of Kosrae's coastal ecosystems, learn about the ways climate change is impacting those ecosystems, and experience the rich Kosraean

culture. The course will include units on **mangroves, coral reefs, estuaries and seagrasses**. Most days will feature a field-based activity, during which students will conduct a rapid ecological assessment of a mangrove swamp, coral reef, or seagrass meadow. Ecological assessments from pristine settings will be compared to those from locations impacted by human activities, such as development or logging. The final project will be to conduct a workshop for Kosraean K-8 teachers on mangroves, oceans & climate.

### **Logistics**

Students & staff will live at the lovely Pacific Treelodge Resort. Lodging on Kosrae is included in the program fee of \$5,550. A discounted rate of \$23 has been negotiated for 3 meals/day at the Resort. Kosrae is accessed 4x/wk by United Airlines flights from Guam and Honolulu. For more information please contact Julian Sachs at [jsachs@uw.edu](mailto:jsachs@uw.edu).

