

# Tagalog language course to be offered in Fall '07

By **KYLE STEPHENS**  
Staff writer  
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News editor

The language of the Philippines - Tagalog - will be taught for the

first time at Ohlone in the fall of 2007.

The class, TAG-181A Conversational Tagalog, currently has no teacher but former Ohlone Filipino-American Student Alliance advisor and Ohlone counselor, Wayne

Takakuwa, has been meeting with potential teachers and working on the class. Takakuwa was able to get approval for the Tagalog curriculum last year.

Takakuwa said that there was significant interest in a Tagalog class.

He explained that most universities offer such courses and Ohlone has around 800 students that identify as Filipino, around 7 percent of all students. Ohlone's surrounding cities, Fremont and Newark, also have fairly large Filipino communities.

The course, worth three units, will be transferable to CSUs. Takakuwa plans for it to be UC transferable in the coming semesters as a humanities course; only non-conversation courses are transferable to UCs in the language area.

## New math class for students seeking associate degrees

By **MARGARITA KITOVA**  
Staff writer

Ohlone has a new math requirement for all students enrolled in the 2006-07 semesters and beyond.

The State Academic Senate has passed a resolution that a math course in beginning algebra will now be a prerequisite for all associate degrees.

The board of governors adopted the proposal, and by 2009 all community colleges must have a beginning algebra course.

Ohlone is far ahead as Ron Staszko, mathematics professor, has already developed and is teaching MATH-155: Math for the Associate Degree.

All students must now either take a transfer-level math course or MATH-155.

Staszko and Math Professor Robert Bradshaw have also written a textbook that meets the general education requirement of a mathematics course for beginning algebra.

For a student whose educational

goal is an associate degree, it could be a terminal mathematics course.

However, for those with higher educational goals, the class presents material and develops problem-solving skills that would make it a good bridge between Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra and transfer-level courses.

The MATH-155 course also stresses the usefulness of math. There has been good enrollment for the last two semesters.

The book for the class is called "The Mathematical Collage." The problems and applications included in it are chosen with care to be in the range of mathematical sophistication of a student with a beginning algebra background.

The intent is to develop problem solving skills by actually analyzing and solving realistic problems, such as "How to weigh a fish without a scale," "Math for the Tourist" and "Math and Sports."

The course teaches students about probability as well as how to figure simple and compound

interest and how that relates to credit cards, annuities and loans. It also gives an idea of how math works with barcodes, voting, interest, taxes, tourism, automobiles, cooking, do-it-yourself projects, aesthetics, poker, apportionment, fishing, nursing and the ranch.

Jackie Rich, who's taking the class, said, "Students should take because you learn things you'll actually need in the real world. I will take everything I learned in this class with me after I graduate."

Mindy Lindsay thinks that for students who have not enjoyed math in the past, "this class may restore your hope in your abilities and understanding of the subject, as each chapter focuses on a different aspect of math."

Samplings of current mathematics students show it to be useful, practical and fun. Students are invited to take any or all of the excursions, pack some paper, a pencil and a calculator and enjoy the trip.

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