



## SYLLABUS

### **Survey of Ghanaian Music and Cultures**

**Instructor: Dr. Habib Iddrisu**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**UO Credits: 5**

**Contact Hours\*: 45 hours**

TAMALE & ACCRA (*briefly* in KUMASI)

COUNTRY: GHANA

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This survey course is designed to cover a wide variety of musical expression, including the traditional, neo-traditional, and contemporary mass mediated popular music known as Afro-Pop. The course will offer an ethnomusicological perspective on the social context of the music process, music and historical narrative, music and religious ritual, indigenous court music traditions, contemporary issues in Afro-Pop (from highlife to hiplife), and various aspects of performance practices in Ghana.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY**

The instructional methodology of this course will include field trips, some lectures and guest lectures (from faculty of the University for Development Studies-Tamale, University of Ghana-Legon, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology-Kumasi, and the Tamale Polytechnic-Tamale integrated into the entire trip). It will also include several experiential learning activities (traditional hut building, basket weaving, sewing clothes/costumes, and drum-making), music-dance workshops 3-days per week, excursions and attending and documenting some local events such as naming ceremonies, weddings and interviews with locals. Occasional video/film viewing and audio listening will be added into course instructions. Additionally, the experience will include 1-time a week Seminar-Style discussions to be led by a Ghanaian expert on Dos and Don'ts while in Ghana (gender relation issues etc.). Since we will be in at least 3 ethnic and geographical regions of Ghana, the Dos and Don'ts would be geographical based to give us the sense of similarities and differences of each region and its inhabitants.

### **METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)**

- Three (3) weekly Essay Summaries: Students will write 1-2 pages that critically analyze a weekly reading regarding our term-long questions and probe(s). *A detailed guide will be provided at the start of each week.* **All weekly assignments are due at 2:00pm on Wednesday/midweek of the new week.**

- **Voices Journal Entries:** Students must record their daily observations, experiences and engagement with a variety of expressive forms happenings while in Ghana. (Voices) including engagement with a variety of expressive forms used by individuals, public performances, interactions, novels, music, dance, dress, paintings, films, political cartoons that will assist as primary sources to learn about the diversity and vivacity of Ghanaians. Voices can be bulleted to begin with, but should be converted into at least 6 or more paragraphs (in an essay format). Each log must be dated. Photographs, newspaper etc. can be used to aid in the Voices Journal Entry. Students are encouraged to document their thoughts feelings and experiences every evening. Make sure to keep an electronic copy as well.
- **Attendance & Participation:** Course periods are used for discussions, lectures, videos, small group assignments, writings and other activities including classroom and field components. Attendance in all assigned events etc., is therefore mandatory and fundamental to your success in this course.
- **Informal Research Presentation:** Prior to departure from Ghana, undergraduate students will have a minimum of 10-15minutes to present their research findings so far to their course mates. Students can also collaborate with a course mate(s) or local group(s) or person(s). Performances can be used as well. *(Detailed guidelines to be distributed during pre-departure and arrival orientations)*
- **Final Take-Home Research Paper:** Students will have a final take-home research paper drawing from all lectures, events, activities, and voices journal entries. Students will conduct original research **(the topic must be approved by me)**. Based on the research topic, students will write 8-10 pages (not less than 8, and not more than 12). It must be written in essay format, 12-pt font, doubled-space, spelling and grammar checked). No need for an extensive library research. Take-Home Research Paper should be turned in shortly after you return. **Exact Due Date TBA. Canvas Submission Only.** *(Detailed guidelines to be distributed during pre-departure and arrival orientations).*

Grade configuration

Attendance and participation in course discussions/activities	= 25% of final grade
1-2-page response to 3weekly readings/videos etc.,	= 25% of final grade
Voice Journal Entries	= 20% of final grade
Informal Research Presentation in Ghana	= 5% of final grade
Final (Take-Home Research Paper)	= 25% of final grade

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>WEEK 1</b>		
<b>Historical Overview: Ghana within Context of the African Continent</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Day 1	<b>Reading(a):</b> Wainaina, How to Write about Africa.	

Day 2	(pp.1-2) <b>Reading(b):</b> Keim, in <i>Mistaking Africa</i> (pp. 1-106)	<b>No Summary Due</b>
Day 3	<b>Reading:</b> Keim, in <i>Mistaking Africa</i> (pp.107-166) <b>Reading(b):</b> Keim, in <i>Mistaking Africa</i> (pp. 167)	
	<b>Reading(a):</b> Wilks One Nation...(pp.1-66)-186) <b>Reading(b):</b> Radano & Olaniyan; Denning in <i>Audible Empire</i> (pp. 1-44)	
<b>WEEK 2</b>		
Socio-Cultural Context: Traditional and Contemporary Music of Ghana		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Day 1	<b>Reading:</b> Agawu in <i>The African Imagination in Music</i> (pp. 1-64)	<b>Weekly summary # 1 due</b>
Day 2	<b>Reading:</b> Agawu in <i>Representing African Music</i> (pp. 1-70)	
Day 3	<b>Reading(a):</b> Turino <i>"Music as Social Life"</i> (pp1-22) <b>Reading(b):</b> Collins, <i>"the Early History of West African..."</i> (pp. 221-230)	
<b>WEEK 3</b>		
From Highlife to Hiplife Music: Popular Music and Cultural Trends in Ghana Today		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Day 1	<b>Reading:</b> Agawu in <i>Representing African Music</i> (pp. 71-116)	<b>Weekly summary # 2 due</b>
Day 2	<b>Reading:</b> Agawu in <i>Representing African Music</i> (pp.117-198)	
Day 3	<b>Reading:</b> Agawu in <i>Representing African Music</i>	

	(pp.199-225)	
<b>WEEK 4</b>		
Hiplife Music and Beyond		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Day 1	<b>Reading:</b> Osumare, <i>The Hiplife in Ghana...</i> (pp. 29-82)	<b>Weekly summary # 3 due</b>
Day 2	<b>Reading:</b> Osumare, <i>The Hiplife in Ghana...</i> (pp. 1-182)	
Day 3	<b>Presentations</b>	
<b>Take-Home Exams Papers due SHORTLY AFTER RETURN (TBA). Canvas Submission Only</b>		

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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