



SYLLABUS

GHANA TODAY

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Oduro-Frimpong

Contact Hours: 48

Language of Instruction: English

ACCRA, GHANA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an interdisciplinary course designed to study some of the major contemporary issues facing Ghanaian society after 50 years of independence from British colonial rule. Students interested in sociology, history, political science, economics, and cultural studies will find this course of particular interest as its subject matter dovetails with each of these related disciplines.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to enable students to gain a clear understanding of the major challenges and opportunities facing Ghana, today, as a developing nation. Students should finish the semester with a strong interdisciplinary understanding of the current issues facing Ghana as a developing nation, along with a firm grasp of the unique strategies and methods the Ghanaian nation is using to meet its current challenges within the context of a 'globalized' world.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

The method of instruction for this course will include the use of lectures, audio-visual materials, site visits, and required and suggested readings. An integral part of the learning experience will include students demonstrating their critical understanding of the material covered in class and in the readings by raising questions about the material and by engaging in discussions in the classroom.

METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

The course will consist of two exams, worth 70%; and the research paper, worth 30%. Five percent extra credit can be earned for consistent classroom participation.

Quizzes and Exams

There will be two exams, a midterm and the final. The exams will include, primarily, essay styled questions. The purpose of the exams will be to gauge the students' grasp of the material covered in the class lectures and in the assigned readings as well as to measure the students' ability to reflect critically on the subject matter of the course.

Research Paper

A research paper of no less than 12 double-spaced typed pages will be required from each student. The subject matter of the research paper must address one of the subtopics of the course

as approved by the professor. All students must turn in a copy of an outline of the specific topic chosen along with a brief annotated bibliography of sources within four weeks from the beginning of the course.

COURSE OUTLINE

The following specific areas will be covered over the span of the semester:

Week 1: *Concise Historical Overview of Pre-Colonial to Early Post-Colonial Ghana*

READINGS: A History of Ghana: Revised and Updated. F.K. Buah. McMillan, 1998.

Documentary: Movie on Nkrumah & Ghana

Week 2: *Ghana's Role in ECOWAS and the African Union*

READINGS: "Address to the Conference and African Heads of State and Governments," Kwame Nkrumah, in Revolutionary Path, International Publishers, NY, 1973. Pages 233-248.

Week 3: *Politics of Democratization in Ghana*

READINGS: Watching Democracy in Ghana 1999-2007. (Selected Readings). Center for Democracy and Development.

Democratization in Late Twenty-Century Africa: Coping with Uncertainties. Jean-Germain Gro, ed. Greenwood Press, 1998. Chapter 7.

Movie: The Rawlings Factor in Ghanaian Politics

Week 4: *Economic Development in Ghana*

READINGS: Regional Development in Ghana: The Theory and the Reality. Jacob Sorsore. Woeli Publishing Services, 2003. Chapters 1-3.

Week 5: *Contemporary Familial Patterns in Ghana*

READINGS: Tradition and Change in Ghana: An Introduction to Sociology. G.K. Nukunya. Ghana Universities Press, 2003. Chapters 2, 3, 9.

Week 6: *Role of Ghanaian Women in National Development*

READINGS: The Role of Women in Ghana's Economy. Nora Judith Amu. Friedrich Ebed Stiftung. 2005.

Week 7: *Illness and Health Care Issues in Ghana*

READINGS: Urbanization and Health in Africa: Exploring the Interconnections Between Poverty, Inequality, and the Burden of Disease, 2007. Jacob Songsore. Ghana Universities Press. Chapters. 1-2.

Week 8: *Critical Issues in Environmental Degradation and Protection*

READINGS: State of Environmental Health: Report of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area, 2001. Jacob Songsore, et al. Ghana Universities Press, 2005. Chpts. 1-4.

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9: *Contemporary Religious Patterns in Ghana*

READINGS: Contemporary Pentecostal Christianity: Interpretations from an African Context. (2013). J. Kwabena Asamoah Gyedu. Regnum Books International.

Short Documentary: The Prosperity Gospel in Ghana

Week 10: ***Education and Ghanaian Youth***

READINGS: “Child Labour Productivity and Wages: Case Study of Coastal Fishing and Local Restaurants in Ghana,” Augustine Cockel, et.al, in Legon Journal of International Affairs, 2009, Vol.2/No.2, Pages, 89-115

Week 11: **SITE VISIT / TBA**

Week 12: ***Tourism in Ghana***

READINGS: Tourism, Diasporas, and Space. Edited by Tim Coles and Dallen J. Timothy. Routledge, 2005. Chapters 7-8.

Week 13: ***Ghanaian Media***

READINGS: The Press and Political Culture in Ghana. Jennifer Hasty. Indiana University Press, 2003. Chapters 1-3.

Week 14: ***Ghanaian Expressive Culture & Sociopolitical Engagement I***

READINGS: Nana Kwame Ampadu and the Sung-Tale as Metaphor for Protest Discourse. In FonTomFrom: Contemporary Ghanaian Literature, Theatre and Film By Kofi Anyidoho

Week 15: Ghanaian Expressive Culture & Sociopolitical Engagement II

READINGS: On Occult Ritual and Cyber-fraud in Ghanaian Popular Video-Films. *African Studies Review*, 2014

Better Ghana Agenda? On Akosua Cartoons and Critical Public Debates in Contemporary Ghana. In *African Popular Culture: The Episteme of Everyday*, Routledge 2014

Week 16: ***FINAL EXAM***

COURSE READINGS

(See COURSE OUTLINE)

Politics

Religion

Economics

Popular Culture