

Group Study Abroad Program
Ghana 2023: Decolonizing Development: Perspectives from Ghana
DEST 401: Selected Topics in Development Studies
(Under)Development of Ghana

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Interdisciplinary Development Studies Program
University of Calgary
Spring 2023

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Dates: May 8-May 12, 2023

Prerequisite: Consent of the department.

Note: The four courses in this field school are to be viewed as interconnected but also taken in a progressive manner. This means preparations in DEST 401 will provide the necessary background for studying development in Ghana but also for setting you up for SOCI 401, ANTH 541, and DEST 501.

1. **Course Description:** This course takes place in Calgary, prior to departing for Ghana. The course will provide a comprehensive introduction to Ghana, examining the various factors and circumstances that have played a role, to different degrees, in shaping the Ghana students will encounter. Among others, students will learn about the geography and resource endowment; colonial and post-colonial history; politics; language and ethnicity; chieftaincy traditional rule, as well as the religious and cultural diversity issues that continue to shape Ghana. All these factors continue to influence the development trajectory of the country. In this course, students will be introduced to post-coloniality that sets them up to filter their inquiring and learning, recognising that the grip of colonialism persists amidst growing calls for homegrown development. Key questions students will be encouraged to examine are around how the county is navigating its development future based on its colonial past and the post-colonial future that was envisaged, and is being pursued in some parts of the country.
2. **Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should be able to:**
 - a. Offer an enlightened introduction to Ghana to someone not schooled on the topic;
 - b. Explain how various factors in Ghana's past have affected the development of the country;
 - c. Explain the basics of ethical research and community engagement;
 - d. Develop the cross-cultural competency necessary to 'live' and study in Ghana;
 - e. Identify 2-3 topics that they would like to explore in more detail for their term paper.

3. Textbooks and Readings

There is no textbook required for this course. **Required readings** for the course have been curated and will be used for instruction pre-departure and retained for ongoing reference as the trip progresses. The readings will also be updated as needed in the lead up to or during the trip.

4. Evaluation

- a. **Participation (25%):** Class participation is intended to enhance students connection to the course content and increase students comfort level with sharing ideas with a group; allowing practice of skills articulating comments, questions or arguments. These will be central to students' engagement and learning in Ghana, as the majority of the learning will happen in a participatory context. Participation will be assessed based on student's prior reading of assigned texts, the frequency of voluntary engagement in the class, quality of the participation as well as the degree of enthusiasm exuded as they engage with the class, and with the instructors.
- b. **Oral presentation on topics of interest (20%):** At the end of the pre-departure week, each student will be given 10 minutes to present their topic of interest to the class, emphasising what they hope to explore whilst in the field. Students do a short PowerPoint presentation for their timeslot. The focus of the presentation is on the content, the aim of which is to instigate discussions that students can draw on to more specifically tailor chosen interest(s) for exploration whilst in Ghana.
- c. **Topic of interest assignment (25%):** This assignment will be due at the end of the 2nd week in Ghana. Students will be expected to combine their insights pre-departure with their first 2 weeks of engagement in Ghana to complete this assignment. It will consist of a two-page single-spaced write-up detailing their original thinking and how that may have changed since they arrived in country. It could be also the chance to change topics before these are finalized. These topics will form the basis of their research as part of requirements for DEST 501 and ultimately lead to the students paper in DEST 501 (see outline).
- d. **Final Exam (30%):** There will be a two-hour final exam at the end of the pre-departure week. The exam will test background preparedness for the work that is to be continued in Ghana. The questions will be short answer in format and cover all the topics that have been covered in class. Typically, the questions will require students to demonstrate good grasp of foundational content through explain and connect type questions.

5. Submission of Assignments

The due date for the topic of interest assignment will be at the end of second week in Ghana. Specific date TBD. If a student fails to submit their assignment on the due date, late penalty points of 1.5 for every day the assignment is late will be applied. With evidence of extenuating circumstances, penalty points may be waived, but the assignment still needs to be handed in.

The final exam and topic of interest presentation will be completed prior to leaving Calgary and the dates will be determined when planning get to the granular stage.

6. Final course grades will be calculated as follows:

Grade Breakdown

A+ 100 - 94.9% **B+ 84.8 – 79.9%** **C+ 70.8– 66.9%** **D+ 58.8 – 54.9%**
A 94.8 - 89.9% **B 79.8 - 74.9%** **C 66.8 – 62.9%** **D 54.8 – 49.9%**
A- 89.8 - 84.9% **B- 74.8 – 70.9%** **C- 62.8 – 58.9%** **F 49.8% and below**

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter
A-	3.70	
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete
B-	2.70	
C+	2.30	
C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter
C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
		Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

As there are no formal meetings for this course, students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor via email to either set up appointments as needed, or to ask clarifications.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to me ryembila@ucalgary.ca.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student’s individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program. For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>.

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources. Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

TEACHING EVALUATIONS /USRI (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>. The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

Safewalk: Campus Security, in partnership with the SU, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources: Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre. The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require. In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre houses:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580; Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block. Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

arts2@su.ucalgary.ca

arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Ombudsman's office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds>