Field Study - Ghanaian Culture and Natural Resources

COURSE INFORMATION
PSC | 1 credit | 400 level | 15 contact hours

Instructor: Abigail Thompson

TEXTBOOKS & COURSE MATERIALS

COURSE DESCRIPTION
USAC offers a one credit field studies course in Ghanaian culture and natural resources. The USAC encourages every student to participate in the field studies course. However, this segment of the program is optional and enrollment in the field studies course is necessary to participate on the trip itself. A fee is charged for the field trip to cover transportation, and room and board.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
- To experience the greater country of Ghana.
- To provide guidelines to understanding the political, physical and cultural influences of Ghana.

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES
After successful completion of this course students will be able to:
- compare and contrast the Ghanaian culture and scenic atmosphere to their home country
- describe the natural habitat of animal life in Ghana
- identify the unique craft skills of Ghanaian natives
- apply experiences to a better understanding of cultural differences

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
The course takes place in three phases:

1. Research, lectures and discussions on the following topics: Political History of Ghana, History and legends of former Asante rulers and their influence in Northern Ghana; Social, Political, and economic structure of northern Ghana; history and artifacts of Ghanaian artisans; Ghana’s scenic atmosphere and the natural habitat of Animal life unique to Ghana.

2. The trip and fieldwork phase of the course takes place as described above. The student will keep a journal while on the trip.

3. Oral presentation of the field trip experience with the instructor should take place within three weeks after the completion of the field studies trip along with submission of journal. Grading will be on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.
4. The consumption of alcohol or drugs is absolutely prohibited inside the bus as well as during any programmed activity. If a student appears intoxicated, he or she will be disbarred from the group without possibility of a refund and will exempt the USAC from any further responsibility during the remainder of the trip.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Day One**  
**Accra – Kumasi / Kumasi City Tour**  
Depart Accra for a scenic drive north to Kumasi. After check in and lunch in your hotel, enjoy a scenic drive through the city of Kumasi, seat of the Ashanti Empire. During the city tour, explore the legends of the famous Ashantis, whose legacies are still evident today. Visit the Manhyia Palace Museum, home and office of former Asante kings. A regal history that dates back to 1700 is told with relics and artifacts. Visit the Cultural Center that features the Prempeh II Jubilee Museum and various studios of the brass makers, potters, and batik makers and drum carvers. Dinner and overnight at Crystal Rose Hotel in Kumasi.

**Day Two**  
**Ashanti Craft Villages**  
After breakfast, begin the day with a visit to three famous Ashanti craft villages for demonstration – Ahwiaa, the woodcarvers’ village, Ntonso, the home of Adinkra and Bonwire, the Kente weaving village. These visits will afford you an opportunity to see how African crafts are made and to buy directly from the artisans who make them. Dinner and overnight at Crystal Rose Hotel in Kumasi.

**Day Three**  
**Kumasi – Mole / Kintampo Falls / Trek**  
After breakfast, check out of hotel and enjoy a drive further north to Kintampo for a packed lunch stopover at the Kintampo Falls where the cool invigorating atmosphere created by nature is worth experiencing. Savor the breath-taking view of this cascading waterfall. Depart Kintampo to Mole National Park. On arrival embark on a late afternoon trek to view West Africa’s big game: elephants, antelopes, waterbucks, warthogs, baboons, monkeys and more. Dinner and overnight at Mole Motel.

**Day Four**  
**Damongo / Larabanga**  
Early morning trek to view the animals in their natural habitat. Return to hotel for breakfast before departing to visit the ancient villages of Damongo and Larabanga. Witness the traditional way of life of these rural communities. See the historic and mystic stones situated in Larabanga. Return to Mole National Park and spend rest of afternoon either relaxing at the pool or further viewing some friendly baboons who may come over to visit. Dinner and overnight at Mole Motel.

**Day Five**  
**Mole – Accra**  
After breakfast, check out of hotel and depart to Accra. Stopover at Kumasi for lunch. Depart Kumasi to Accra.

**ASSESSMENT**

Completion and participation on field trip including:
- Research, lectures and on-going discussions on the political history between northern and southern Ghana
- Journal
- Presentation of experience

Grading will be on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.
Students are responsible to confirm all assignments are received by their instructor. This includes assignments submitted electronically or left on the instructor's desk or mailbox when the instructor is not present.

**DISABILITY POLICY**
Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities or special learning needs. If you have a documented disability for which you have already requested accommodations through the USAC Central office, your instructor will have been notified so that arrangements can be made early in the term.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**
Plagiarism, cheating, submitting work of another person or work previously used and other forms of academic dishonesty will lead to lowered course grades, failure of the course or more severe measures, depending on judgments of the gravity of the individual case.

**STATEMENT ON AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING**
Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.