Society, Government and Politics in Ghana and Africa

COURSE INFORMATION:
PSC/SOC/SW | 3 credits | 400 level | 45 contact hours

Professors: Dr D.E.K Badu and Dr Delali M Badasu

TEXTBOOKS & COURSE MATERIALS
Course materials will be provided in a course reader. See course outline for a list of articles and publications.

DESCRIPTION:
This course will analyze the social, cultural, political and economic issues in Ghana, which have originated from historical circumstances but have impacted the current status of the country and its people. We will examine how Ghana and its people were shaped by their history, as well as how their status both on the African continent and globally is affected by their culture, politics, and continued economic stability. This course will provide an opportunity to explore Ghana’s culture and prosperity through contact with members of its business and political community.

OBJECTIVES:
- to gain insight into social, political and governmental issues being addressed in the region.
- to give the student a general introduction to the problems of Ghana, by analyzing and comparing different dimensions of political expressions.

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES:
After successful completion of this course students should be able to:
- Compare and contrast different world political systems
- Distinguish between the social and governmental issues involved in Politics
- Identify major third world countries and the difficult challenges they face

REQUIREMENTS:
- Three research papers
  - Each paper should be a minimum of 8 pages in length. Each paper should cover a different issue of Ghanaian society, government or political issues. Paper content should take into account readings for class lectures combined with analysis of newspaper articles and practical experiences in Ghana.
- Final Exam
  - Final exam will cover the entire course. Readings, lectures, and guest speakers.
- Attendance/Participation/Preparation
Class attendance is not optional but mandatory. Unexcused absence would lead to deduction of grades and there would be no make up for unexcused absence from class. Class attendance would attract 10% of the final grade.

Readings: Students are required to do the assigned reading before class, take notes and be ready to participate in class discussion. Classes revolve around discussion led by the course instructor and students are expected to raise issues that arise from the assigned readings. Those who neglect to read would not follow class discussions and lectures, and it would reflect in their grades.

OUTLINE:

This course would be jointly taught by Drs D E K Baku and D M Badasu. Dr Baku will teach the first eight weeks. Dr D M Badasu will teach the last 7 weeks.

The classes will be centered on the following themes:

Week 1  The peopling of Ghana
Reading:  D.E.K. Amenumey, Ghana, A Concise History from Pre-Colonial Times to the 20th Century, Accra, Woeli, 2008, pp. 2 - 82

Week 2  Optional trip to the Northern Ghana

Week 3  Slave Trade


Week 4  Society, Governance and Politics in Ghana before 1957

Week 5  Society, Governance and Politics in Ghana after 1957

Assignment: Write a 4- page reflective paper on the following claim, “The slave trade was an unmitigated disaster, a crime unredeemed by one extenuating circumstance”.

Week 6  Ghana’s foreign policy since 1957


Week 7  Economic development and privatization


**Week 8** Civil Society Organizations and good governance in Ghana


**Week 9** African Traditional Authority and Religion via film show


**Assignment:** Write a 4- page reflective paper on the question, “Would you say that Africa’s contemporary political and economic state is conditioned by its historical pasts?”

**Week 10** Migration and Development in Ghana -


**Week 11** Health Issues and their Effects on Ghana’s Development –


Week 12
Women in Ghana –
Readings:

Department of Geography and Resource Development, University of Ghana, Legon; Department of Geography.
Norwegian University of Science and Technology; Department of Geography. University of Cape Coast.


Week 13
Issues in Ghana’s Environmental Degradation –
Readings:


Assignment: to be announced in class by Dr. Badasu

Week 14
Final Exam

ASSESSMENT:
First paper 20%
Second paper 20%
Third paper 20%
Final Exam 30%
Attendance 10%

Grade Scale:
A  100-93  B+  89-87  B  82-80  C+  79-77
A –  92-90  B  86-83  C  76-73
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.