

**BROOKLYN COLLEGE**  
**AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT SUMMER SEMINAR TO GHANA**

**Special Topics in the Humanities:  
History, Arts and Culture of Ghana**

**AFST  
Summer Session I  
June –July 2013**

**Description**

This course will be a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the history, culture, arts and culture of Ghana, a developing country on Africa's West Coast. The course will also explore related issues in African Diaspora Studies including the Atlantic slave trade and the cultural and historic connections among the peoples of the African Diaspora. This course will provide a number of vectors for study and learning in these various areas, including a reading packet, lectures by Ghanaian professors, visits to museums, historic sites, parks, and cultural centers. The course will enhance the undergraduate education of majors from a variety of fields including music, visual arts, literature, history, sociology, political science, and many other fields.

**Objectives**

Students will become familiar with indigenous/traditional political and religious practices, particularly those of the Asante people of central Ghana.

Students will become familiar with how the Atlantic Slave operated and the role played by European nations and various Ghanaian peoples in it.

Students will become familiar with traditional Ghanaian foods, customs, and patterns of daily living.

Students will begin to accept and appreciate cultural differences and in the process become more cognizant of their own cultural patterns.

Students will begin to understand the historic and cultural connections between Ghana and the rest of the African Diaspora, i.e. the USA and the Caribbean.

Students will gain a greater understanding of self, place, ethnic, regional, and national identity.

**Lectures/Workshops by Ghanaian professors on the following topics**

- Asante history and politics
- Ghanaian Architecture
- Traditional and Contemporary Visual Arts
- Literature
- The Atlantic Slave Trade
- Folk Music and Dancing
- Traditional religion and Christianity in Ghana

**Field Trips to the Following Sites**

- W.E.B. Dubois Center, Accra
- Manhyia Palace Museum
- Center for National Culture (Accra)
- National Cultural Center (Kumasi)
- Bonwire Kente Weaving village
- Cape Coast Castle
- Elmina Castle
- Assin Manso Slave Camp and Memorial

**Outcomes**

- Students will be able to describe the operation of the Atlantic Slave Trade in Ghana and the Diaspora
- Students will be able to describe the basic history and structure of the Asante kingdom.
- Students will be able to identify several of the adinkra symbols.
- Students will be able to describe the process of Kente weaving.
- Students will be able to recognize and identify differences in architectural styles and link them to particular regions and or ethnic groups in the country.
- Students will be able to use basic greetings and customary responses in the Akan language.

**Assignments**

- All students will attend lectures and field trips
- All students will keep a thoughtful journal of impressions, reactions and feelings.
- Undergraduates will write a ten page paper responding to the lecture topics and field trips. The paper must also include scholarly references exclusive of the lectures.
- Graduate students will write a twenty page paper on a specialized topic they have chosen in consultation with the instructor. The graduate paper may include primary sources, field research and/or theoretical grounding as necessary for the topic. It will include a more extensive bibliography tailored to the topic under investigation.

## Selected Bibliography

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