

Ghana

Origins of African Identity

Examine identity formation from local, global, historical, and contemporary perspectives by exploring African Diaspora studies in Ghana and Benin.

Coursework

Lecturers are drawn from leading and premier institutions such as the University of Cape Coast, the University of Ghana, and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

History and Cultures of the African Diaspora

HIST 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course explores several interrelated topics, issues, geographic spaces, and processes related to the global dispersions of peoples and cultures of African ancestry, including their contributions to world economies, politics of ethnicity and belonging, and aesthetic and material cultures. Students examine the centrality of the slave trade, as well as select historical figures and their thoughts, movements, creative expressions, and impact on the discourse of African diasporas and identities. Topics include: genesis of the African Diaspora; typologies of diasporas; survival and resistance in northern Ghana; diasporas in Africa; African ancestry in Asia and Central America; Pan-Africanism.

Narratives of Identity in the African Diaspora

AFRS 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in English with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course examines modes of self-presentation, representation, and performance of individual and collective identities as inscribed in aesthetic-symbolic forms such as literary, musical, visual, choreographic, and theatrical traditions. Drawing on interdisciplinary analytical ideas in performance and cultural studies, and those of critical theory, ethnomusicology, and media (including hypermedial and notions of black cultural traffic), the course approaches the performance of identity in the African Diaspora as a dialogic site for negotiating issues of power, resistance,

memory, and historical consciousness. Topics include: early images and media representation of blacks; performing blackness; identity theories; critical examination of artists and their works; global tourism and "performing Africa"; hip hop and black cultural traffic.

Educational Excursions

The program includes visits to Accra and Kumasi, as well as Ghana's upper-west region near the border of Burkina Faso. Students examine various historic sites and cultures to gain a fuller perspective on the country. Visits to fishing villages and small towns near Cape Coast and Elmina provide an understanding of rural life. A four-day excursion from Ghana to the nearby country of Benin enables students to appreciate these two nations' historical roles in the slave trade and their contemporary roles in the Diaspora.

Intensive Language Study: Fante

FANT 1000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Emphasis on beginning speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Formal instruction is augmented by language practice with host families during the homestay.

Reading the African Diaspora: Methods and Approaches

ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

A study and review of established and emerging research ideas and discourses, methods, techniques, analytical tools, and research models for investigating the peoples, products, and processes of the African Diaspora. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a field journal.

AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Cape Coast

Language Study Fante

Homestay Cape Coast, 5 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay Komenda, 1 week

Other Accommodations Hostels, private homes, educational institutions, or small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites None

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in an approved location appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** historical consequences within Ghanaian communities of the human trade; historical preservation of castles and forts; sociocultural influence of Diaspora communities returning to Ghana; legacy of Pan-Africanist philosophy in Ghana today; African American religious movements in Ghana; themes in modern Pan-Africanist literature; contribution of Pan-Africanist scholars to post-independence nation building; European influence in African traditional medicine; role of women in family life; role of West African economic influence in Ghana; importance of oral history in Ghana.