Instructor: Dr Moradewun Adejunmobi

OBJECTIVES
“Cultural Politics in Contemporary Africa” is not a history class. Instead it offers a review of African political thinking about culture. Since the early twentieth century, African political thinkers, activists, scholars, creative writers and performers have engaged in debates about the relevance of African culture to life in the modern world. This course aims to introduce students to some these debates as they apply to the country of Ghana. It also invites students to analyze and critique the positions taken by African thinkers on questions of culture.

The course will focus on cultural issues, and challenges to development in West Africa with special emphasis on the nation of Ghana. Through assigned readings, discussions and field trips students will be exposed to various aspects of Ghanaian culture, significant moments in Ghanaian history and the problems of development in an African nation. The following topics will be discussed in detail: the culture of the Asante and the other Akan-speaking peoples in Ghana, urban popular culture in Ghana, Atlantic slavery in West Africa, the African Diaspora in Ghana, Politics in independent Ghana, and finally issues in contemporary development.

REQUIREMENTS
This course will consist of lectures, discussions and field trips. Participation in and attendance of all scheduled activities is mandatory. As a student in this class, you will have weekly hours of formal classroom instruction. In addition, you will be required to read the assigned texts in the class reader for each week, go on field trips, and to carry out other assigned work such as oral reports and journal reports. There will be one or two field trips taking us outside the city of Accra every week after the first week. Short response quizzes will be held periodically, and there will be a final examination at the end of the class. For the duration of the class, all students are to reside in the Pink Hostel in Accra, except when we go on field trips and students are assigned to shared hotel rooms. This syllabus is subject to modification at the discretion of the professor.

Grades for the journal are awarded on the following basis: 1) coherence or good organization; 2) detailed observations; 3) reflection on significance of subject described; 4) originality in choice of subject or in analysis of significance.

Grading for AAS 111
Field Trip Journals: 20%
Attendance: 10%
Group projects: 10%
Short Response Quizzes: 40%
Final examinations 20%

**WEEK ONE**  
June 19 - June 25 2016  
Stephen Salm  
Culture and Customs of Ghana  
Kevin Shillington  
History of Africa  
Elizabeth Isichei  
A History of African Societies to 1870  
M. D. McLeod  
Stool and chairs  
Beverly Stoeljte  
Asante Queen Mothers  
Wilhelmina Donkoh  
Yaa Asantewa  
Gracia Clark  
Market Queens  
Emily Chamlee-Wright  
Urban Female Entrepreneurship  
Christine Oppong  
Marriage among a Matrilineal Elite  
Peggy Gilfoy  
West African Strip-Weaving Traditions  
Venice Lamb  
Asante Weaving

**WEEK TWO**  
June 26 – July 2 2016  
Geoffrey Parrinder  
West African Religion  
Paul Gifford  
Ghana’s New Christianity  
Steven Salm  
Social customs and lifestyle  
Basil Davidson  
The Origins and Growth of the Atlantic Slave Trade  
Joseph Inkori  
Africa and the Trans-Atlantic slave trade  
Bayo Holsey  
Slavery, Tourism and Diasporic Encounters  
Obiagele Lake  
Diaspora African Repatriates in Ghana  
Manning Marable  
W.E.B. du Bois

**WEEK THREE**  
July 3 - July 9 2016  
Vincent Thompson  
The Evolution of Pan-Africanism  
Robert July  
The Search for Identity in Modern Africa  
Deborah Pellow  
Coping with Uncertainty  
Roger Cocking  
Independence: The Nkrumah Years  
Kevin Shellington  
Africa Since Independence  
Jeffrey Haynes  
Democratic Consolidation in Africa  
Basil Davidson  
Questions about Development  
Amartya Sen  
How Does Culture Matter?

**WEEK FOUR**  
July 10 - July 16 2016  
Kwado Konadu-Agyemang  
Structural Adjustment Programs and Development in Ghana  
Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang  
Africa under World Bank Management  
Siobahn Laird  
Rolling Back the African State  
Peter Arthur  
Ghana’s Golden Age of Development  
Renée van den Bremer & Bram Büscher  
Sustainable Community Development in Ghana
Lynda Day  
What’s Tourism Got to Do With It?

Alex Asiedu  
Migration of Skilled Professionals from Ghana

Tom McCaskie  
The US, Ghana and Oil
Instructor: Dr Moradewun Adejunmobi

REQUIREMENTS
This class is graded on a P/NP, pass/no pass basis. Each student is awarded 100% at the beginning of the class. You lose marks by missing class fieldtrips or scheduled activities outside of classroom instruction that are listed in the syllabus. For the first activity or fieldtrip missed in each of the four weeks, a student loses 20%. For every subsequent activity/fieldtrip missed that week, the student loses 5%. In order to gain a passing grade at the end of the class, a student needs to retain at least 70%, or the equivalent of a C-.
This syllabus is subject to modification at the discretion of the professor.

ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS
Weekly drumming and dancing lessons, final performance
Asantehene Palace Museum in Kumasi
Bonwire and Ntonsu (to see Kente weaving and wood carving)
Ashanti Gold fields in Obuasi
Okomfo Anokye shrine, Kumasi
Koforidua bead market
Kakum National Park
Arts and craft center, Accra
Nkrumah Mausoleum, Accra
Makola Market, Accra
National Museum, Accra
University of Ghana, Legon
Cape Coast University
WEB Du Bois Center, Accra
Elmina Slave fort, Elmina
Cape Coast Slave fort, Cape Coast
Global Mama cooperative in Cape Coast
Akosombo Dam, Volta region
Wli waterfalls, Volta region
Tafi Atome Monkey Sanctuary, Volta region
Aburi Botanical Gardens
Teshie Nungua fantasy coffin workshop
Teshie Orphanage
Lunch and home visit with Ghanaian family at Abiriw