EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 1043 3.0 SECTION A
WEST AFRICAN DRUM ENSEMBLE: GHANAIAN
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 08/31/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Provides practical instruction in drumming, singing, and dancing of selected traditions of Ghana. The performance practice and repertoires of various West African cultures including Ewe, Dagamba, Mandinka and other Mande people. The songs and basic dance movements integral to these traditions will also be studied. Prerequisite: None. Open to majors/non-majors.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dunyo, Frederick Kwasi</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Course Instructor
- Kwasi Dunyo (course director): kdunyo@yorku.ca or kwasidunyo@gmail.com

Course Coordinator: Sherry Johnson: sherryj@yorku.ca
Course consultation hours: speak to instructor to arrange for time

- Time and Location
  Section A, 11:30am-1pm; Section B, 1-2:30pm; Section C, 2:30-4pm & Section D 4-5:30pm
  Location: ACE 235

1. SPECIAL FEATURES

Course Description
This course offers practical instruction in selected drumming and dance repertory from Ghana, West Africa. Students will be expected to learn hand and/or stick drumming techniques using a variety of African percussion instruments; sing songs related to specific drumming traditions and perform dance styles which are often integral to the presentation of such repertory.

Prerequisite / Co-requisite
There is no prerequisite for the 1000 level. The 2000 requires the completion of the 1000 level version of the course; the 3000 requires the completion of the 2000 level and the 4000 level requires the 3000 level as a prerequisite. Exceptions can only be made with written consent from the course instructor once the student demonstrates that the appropriate skill level has been attained to be exempt from the prerequisite.

**NB:** only one level of this course may be taken at a time in a given term.

2. **TOPICS AND CONCEPTS**

Students are evaluated on their ability to learn and perform the material demonstrated in class. There are no required readings or written assignments for this course: all material is to be learned visually and orally. Students may only make audio/video recordings for their personal practice and development with permission from the course instructor. It is expected that students will supplement class learning through personal practice and study outside of class time. Group practice is encouraged.

1. **LEARNING OUTCOMES WITH EXAMPLES**

**Course Learning Objectives:**

The purpose of this course is to explore West African culture through music and dance. Upon completion of the course students:

- will be expected to perform all of the material taught in class in a concert environment
- will have developed a greater understanding of the cultural context from which the music/dance forms originated
- will have a greater understanding of the musical forms and devices used in West African music (for example: call and response patterns; multi-layered part playing; compositional structure and form)
- will have had exposure to African language(s) and an (increased) understanding of the relationship between the music and spoken language in such traditions
- will have gained an understanding of various historical and social practices associated with the performance of specific drumming traditions
- will have knowledge of a variety of West African instruments: their construction and basic maintenance.
- will have developed an appreciation for the team work and community spirit inherent in this type of performance practice.

1. **GRADED ASSESSMENT**

**Evaluation:** The final grade for this course is made up of the following:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Teamwork and effort</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final Performance</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Grading:** The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 6, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, B = 70 to 74, etc.) (For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar –

**Assignment Submission:** Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. As there are no written assignments for this course, all ‘assignments’ are in a practical performance/demonstration form. Unless due to illness/injury (a doctor’s letter must be provided), all missed tests/performances will result in a grade of ‘0’.
**Lateness Penalty:** Assignments performed later than the scheduled date will be penalized (one letter grade for each week of class that the test is not made up). Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

**Missed Tests:** Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation, may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. (e.g., allowed to perform a make-up test on xx date.) Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

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1. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Specific requirements: wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing.

**Material fees:** if applicable, will be announced by course instructor during the first two weeks of class.

Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 9, 2018

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**Academic Policies / Information**

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
- Access/Disability
- Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
- Student Code of Conduct
- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
- Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling
- Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.)

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm

**"20% Rule"**

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.
Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University