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. Open to majors/non-majors.

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dunyo, Frederick Kwasi</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Kwasi Dunyo (course director): kdunyo@yorku.ca or kwasidunyo@gmail.com, Larry Graves (Instructor): lkg@yorku.ca

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 or 245

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.

Students are evaluated on their ability to learn and perform the material demonstrated in class (see below). Grades are also awarded for attendance; participation; teamwork and effort. There are no required readings or written assignments for this course: all material is to be learned 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.
**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.

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

- Attendance: 20%
- Class Participation: 25%
- Teamwork and effort: 25%
- Final Performance: 30%

**Important Dates:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Grade Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Fall classes start</td>
<td>Last date to announce components of final grades</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 6 - 12</td>
<td>Co-curricular days</td>
<td>Last date to submit Fall term work</td>
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<td>December 4</td>
<td>Fall classes end</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Fall Sturdy Day (no classes; University open)</td>
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<td>December 6 - 21</td>
<td>Fall exams end</td>
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<td>January 3</td>
<td>Winter classes start</td>
<td>Last date to announce components of final grades</td>
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<td>January 19</td>
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<td>February 16 - 22</td>
<td>Reading Week (^1)(no classes, University open)</td>
<td>April 5 Last date to submit Winter term work</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Winter classes end</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Winter Sturdy Day (no classes; University open)</td>
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<td>April 5 - 20</td>
<td>Winter exams end</td>
<td>Last date to add a course without permission of course director</td>
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<td>Sept. 18 (Fall) &amp; Jan. 16</td>
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<td>Oct. 23 (Fall) &amp; Jan. 30</td>
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<td>Nov. 9 (Fall) &amp; Feb. 8</td>
<td>Last date to add a course (with permission of course director)</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 – http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2009cal/calug09_5_acadinfo.pdf or the attached document)

**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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**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 8, 2019**

**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

Additional information:

- 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 that 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