EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 2043 3.0 SECTION A
WEST AFRICAN DRUM ENSEMBLE: GHANAIAN
SUMMER 2019

Last Modified Date: 05/09/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Provides practical instruction in drumming, singing and dancing of selected traditions of Ghana. The songs and basic dance movements integral to these traditions will also be studied. Open to non-majors. Prerequisite: FA/MUSI 1043 3.0.

Practical instruction in 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 non-majors. Prerequisite: FA/MUSI 1043 3.0.

INSTRUCTOR(S)
TBD

SPECIAL FEATURES

WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING/DANCE ENSEMBLE: Summer 2019
Course: FA/MUSI 1043-4043 3.0
Course Webpage: N/A
Term: Summer 2019, April 29, - June 10.

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. Course Instructor:
Kwasi Dunyo (Course Director): kwasidunyo@gmail.com / Larry Graves: gravedrummer@gmail.com
Course consultation hours: speak to instructor to arrange for a time
Time: Section A: M/W 2:30-5:30pm; Section B: M/W 11:30am-2:30pm. Location: ACE 235 & 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 learnings 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 traditional music (drumming dancing and singing). 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 drumming, dancing and singing forms originated • will have a greater understanding of the musical forms and devices used in West African music (for example: call and response patterns; open and close strokes and 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 Africa instruments: their construction and basic maintenance. • will have developed an appreciation for the teamwork and community spirit inherent in this type of performance practice.

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

- **Attendance:** 30%
- **Participation & Team Work:** 30%
- **Rehearsal & Final Performance:** 40%

**Last date to add a course without permission of instructor:** May 03 2019
**Last date to add a course with permission of instructor:** May 10, 2019
**Last date to drop courses without receiving grade:** May 27, 2019
**Course Withdrawal Period:** May 28-June 10

**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, etc.) (For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf](http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf))

**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. **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.

**IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS** All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives Documents):

- [http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm) • York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website • Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants • Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities • Student Conduct Standards • Religious Observance Accommodation

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Many courses utilize Moodle, York University's course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

**Moodle @ York University**