

**DEST 401: Selected Topics in Development Studies**  
**(Under)development of Ghana**  
**“Development in Situ: Group Study Abroad”**

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology**  
**Interdisciplinary Development Studies Program**  
**University of Calgary**  
**Spring 2020**

**Instructor:** Rita Yembilah

**Office:** ES 620

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**Dates:** May 4-May 8, 2020

**Prerequisite:** Consent of the department.

**Note:** The 3 courses in this field school are to be viewed as interconnected but also taken in a progressive manner. This means preparations in DEST 401 will provide the necessary background for studying development in Ghana but also for setting you up for ANTH 541 and DEST 501.

**1. Course Description:** This course takes place in May in Calgary, prior to departing for Ghana. The course will provide a comprehensive introduction to Ghana, examining the various factors and circumstances that have played a role, to different degrees, to shaping the Ghana students will encounter in May and June 2019. Among others, students will be thoroughly exposed to the geography and resource endowment; colonial and post-colonial history; political history and politics; chieftaincy, intra-national conflict; and, ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. All these factors (and more) have had, and continue to have, a bearing on the socio-economic trajectory of the country post-independence. They also affect the extent to which the country is able to steer its current development opportunities and challenges.

**2. Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should be able to:**

- a. Offer an enlightened introduction to Ghana to someone not schooled on the topic;
- b. Explain how various factors in Ghana's past have affected the development of the country;
- c. Develop the cross-cultural competency necessary to 'live' and study in Ghana;
- d. Identify 2-3 topics that they would like to explore in more detail for their term paper.

**3. Textbooks and Readings**

There is no textbook required for this course. As we go along, suggestions for texts and authors will come up that you should note, look up and build your repertoire of resources you can connect back to your learnings and reflections.

**4. Evaluation**

- a. **Participation (20%):** Class participation is intended to enhance your connection to the course content and increase your comfort level of sharing ideas with a group; allowing you to practice your skills of articulating comments, questions or arguments. These will be central to your engagement and learning in Ghana, as the majority of the learning will happen in a participatory context. Your participation will be assessed based on your prior reading of assigned texts, the frequency of voluntary engagement in the class, quality of the participation as well as the degree of enthusiasm exuded as you engage with the class, and with your instructor.

- b. **Topics of interest assignment (20%):** This assignment will be due on May 9, 2019. In this assessment, you will submit a two-page single-spaced identification and preliminary assessment of the issues discussed about Ghana that intrigue you, and why you may be interested in exploring those topics in more detail whilst there. These issues will form the basis of the topics that you will choose to explore more in depth, and ultimately lead to your term paper in DEST 501 (see outline).
- c. **Oral presentation on topics of interest (10%):** At the end of the block week, each student will be given 10 minutes to present their topics of interest (from 'b') to the class, emphasising why these topics are of interest to you. There is no need to prepare a PowerPoint presentation. The focus of the presentation is on the content, the aim of which is to instigate discussions that students can draw on to more specifically tailor your chosen interest(s) for exploration whilst in Ghana.
- d. **Final Exam (50%):** There will be a two-hour final exam on May 10, 2019. The exam will test your background preparedness for the work that is to be continued in Ghana. The questions will be short answer in format and cover all the topics that have been covered in class. Typically, the questions will require you to demonstrate your understanding of the content through why, how, explain and connect type questions. It is, therefore, very important that you attend all the sessions and take good notes that will aid in your learning and revisions for the exam.

## 5. Submission of Assignments

During DEST 401, the only take-home assignment will be due in class on May 9, 2019. In the event that you fail to submit your assignment on the due date, late penalty points of 1.5 for every day the assignment is late will be assessed and applied. With evidence of extenuating circumstances, the penalty points will be waived, but the assignment still needs to be handed in prior to leaving Calgary. You will be eligible to make your oral presentation to the class, absent penalty points.

6. Final course grades will be calculated as follows:

**Grade Breakdown**

<b>A+ 100 - 94.9%</b>	<b>B+ 84.8 – 79.9%</b>	<b>C+ 70.8– 66.9%</b>	<b>D+ 58.8 – 54.9%</b>
<b>A 94.8 - 89.9%</b>	<b>B 79.8 - 74.9%</b>	<b>C 66.8 – 62.9%</b>	<b>D 54.8 – 49.9%</b>
<b>A- 89.8 - 84.9%</b>	<b>B- 74.8 – 70.9%</b>	<b>C- 62.8 – 58.9%</b>	<b>F 49.8% and below</b>

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter
A-	3.70	
B+	3.30	
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete
B-	2.70	
C+	2.30	
C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter
C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
F	0	Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

As there are no formal meetings for this course, students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor via email to either set up appointments as needed, or to ask clarifications.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to me [ryembila@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ryembila@ucalgary.ca).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program. For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>.

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources. Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

#### **TEACHING EVALUATIONS /USRIS (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

#### **Writing Across the Curriculum**

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

**Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:** In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>. The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

**Safewalk:** Campus Security, in partnership with the SU, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:** Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre. The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require. In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre houses:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580; Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/)

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block. Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Ombudsman's office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds>