

## Junior Year Periclean Seminar I (PER 371A)

2sh, fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Heidi G. Frontani  
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Office Hours: Tues 12:20-1:30pm, Thurs 8-10:15am  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:** This course focuses on development in Africa with an emphasis on Ghana. The goals of the course are to collaborate effectively to continue: a) learn about Ghana's history, cultures and customs through research, lectures, videos, and discussion of readings; b) improve people's lives by supporting sustainable projects via fundraising the development initiatives started in Ghana's Volta Region through GST 271; c) engage in outreach and education and d) work on individual and group three year plans.

### REQUIRED READINGS

- 1) Boafo-Arthur, Kwame 2007: *Ghana: One Decade of the Liberal State*, Zed Books.
- 2) Black, Maggie 2007: *The No-Nonsense Guide to International Development*, New Internationalist.
- 3) Cottrell, Anna 2007: *Once upon a Time in Ghana: Traditional Ewe Stories Retold in English*, Troubadour Publishing.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Map quiz 5%
- A 2-page typed original story appropriate for Ewe society and ½ to 1 typed page explanation as to why you believe your story is culturally appropriate for Ewe society 10%
- 10-12 page research paper, plus bibliography, on topic of choice related to Ghana\* 40%
- One (due at the end of the semester) OR two progress reports on group and individual three-year plan goals, plus service hours (either 10% each or 20% for the one report) 20%
- Final 'exam' (quiz) on key points from the readings in two of our three books 10%
- Class participation (demonstrating knowledge of readings, etc.) 15%

\*Note: If you would like to work with another 2010 with similar interests you may submit one longer, 18-20 page research paper. A longer paper could serve as the basis of a submission to *Handprints of Africa* (the AAASE e-journal) and/or a SURF or NCUR presentation. If you have a compelling reason to write your paper on an African country other than Ghana you may, if you obtain instructor approval.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Map Quiz at the beginning of class on:	Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Progress Report #1 due at the beginning of class on:	Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup> (Tues. before Fall Break)*
2 -3 page 'Ewe story/explanation' due at the beginning of class	Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup> (Tues. after Fall Break)
Research Paper due at the beginning of class on:	November 18 <sup>th</sup>
Progress Report #2 due at the beginning of class on:	Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Final 'Exam' (Quiz)	Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> (last day of classes)

\*=Note you can skip submitting this progress report if you only will submit one at the end of the term

### DETAILS ON COUSE REQUIREMENTS

#### Map Quiz

The map quiz will include a review of places quizzed in GST 271, plus some new ones. You will receive blank practice maps and a word bank of approximately 30-35 places in Ghana and throughout West Africa. I will select 20 of the 30-35 to appear on the map quiz (you will get a word bank).

#### Ewe Story with Explanation

You will type an original story of approximately two pages which would be appropriate in Ewe lands (in terms of themes, name of the story, structure of the story, settings, values portrayed, characters, etc.). Then, based

on our discussion of our readings in the Ewe stories book, you will explain WHY your story would be appropriate for an Ewe audience.

### **Research Paper**

You will be asked to come up with a topic of your choice ('Micro-loans and Business Development in Ghana', 'Using Theatre to Combat AIDS in Ghana', 'Urban Women's Livelihoods in Ghana', ETC.). You may work individually or as part of a two-person team. There are several items in the Documents section of our BlackBoard site which you should find helpful when conceptualizing and writing your research paper including: a document on how I grade research papers, sample research papers I consider to be of high quality (written by students in my Africa's People and Environments course), submission guidelines for *Handprints of Africa*, and a document explaining the difference between dependent and independent variables (in the event that you would like to take that kind of an approach to your paper).

### **Progress Report(s)/Reflections on Being a Periclean**

Please write each of your TWO, one to two page, typed, progress reports in the format used in GST 271 (describe what progress you have made in terms of reaching our goals of collaborating effectively, sustainable projects, outreach and education, fundraising and your three-year plan (which hopefully you still have a copy of). Also include the number of hours you devoted to these initiatives and describe what you did ('swiped Phoenix cards for 1 hour', etc.). I ELIMINATED THE FINAL REFLECTION PAPER AS A COURSE REQUIREMENT, SO PLEASE INCLUDE A PARAGRAPH OR TWO IN YOUR PROGRESS REPORT IN WHICH YOU REFLECT UPON YOUR PERICLEAN EXPERIENCE (WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE A PERICLEAN?, WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF THIS PROGRAM FOR YOU? WHAT'S THE WORST?, ETC.)

We have several development initiatives to be continued:

- Completion of the construction, furnishing, and stocking with medical supplies of a ten-room Health Center in Kpoeta, which will provide year round access to health care for 10,000 people in Dr. Amedahe's home town. Possible construction of housing for staff for the ten-room Health Center. NOTE: The grand opening of the completed Health Center is tentatively scheduled for early January 2009 (during the Winter Term Ghana Abroad program's visit to Kpoeta).
- Providing training and materials for beekeeping and grasscutter rearing and marketing via Heifer International to the people of Sokode, where Dr. Brian Digre serves as Development Chief. The honey bees and grasscutters are anticipated to help the rural poor in Sokode and two other nearby villages improve their income earning capacity and food security. We will help be part of the solution to the yet unexplained worldwide decline in honeybees by supporting their rearing.
- Collection of books for Abor Elementary School Library (Dr. Vogel's former Peace Corps field site) and books/school supplies in Sokode.

In addition, there may be other projects you wish to initiate on continue with.

NOTE: IF YOU DECIDE TO WRITE ONLY ONE PROGRESS REPORT THIS TERM IT WHOULD BE THREE TO FOUR PAGES IN LENGTH

Your individual three year plan may have changed somewhat, but based on our existing group and individual plans possible activities for this semester include: assisting with recruiting Periclean Scholars for the class of 2012 (NOT required—likely will be the job of the 2011 class); fundraising (mega yard sale, 'bar night'; concession *inside* of stadium, golf driving range, Greeks for Ghana, Varsity Gold, Halo III, Phoenix meal cards and cash, etc.); hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> Taste of Ghana; hosting a songs of revolution night; engaging in further outreach to area schools; creating a student manual for Pericleans; assisting a local Ghanaian family; working on a scholarship fund for a Ghanaian; possible screening of Ghana travel channel episode; launching a 2010 Periclean newsletter and completing research for submission for possible publication in the AAASE e-journal *Handprints of Africa*.

**Final Exam (Quiz)**

The final exam/quiz will consist of short answers and short essays and will be based heavily on the discussion questions for our readings. The final examination will emphasize readings in the *Ghana: One Decade of the Liberal State* and *The No-Nonsense Guide to International Development* because you will have already written a paper on Ewe stories.

**Grading Scale:**

A	Excellent work. (A- = 90-94, A = >94)	90-100%
B	Solid, university-level work. (B- = 80-83, B = 84-87, B+ = 88-89)	80-89%
C	Adequate work, lacking in one or more areas. (C- = 70-73, C = 74-77, C+ = 78-79)	70-79%
D	Passing work, but with serious deficiencies. (D- = 60-63, D = 64-67, D+= 68-69)	60-69%
F	Failing, unacceptable work for the university level.	<60%
I	You will be issued with an incomplete (I) if you are unable to complete enough work to be given a fair grade, and where this is justified on grounds of illness, bereavement or other extenuating circumstances approved by the instructor.	

**OTHER ITEMS****GST 271 BlackBoard Site**

Please note that we have a BlackBoard site specific to this course and its requirements AND we are maintaining our original GST 271 BlackBoard site through May 2010. You can find our logo, letter head, brochures, photos, ETC. on our original BlackBoard site. I will continue to use that site to keep track of our advances in fundraising.

**2010s Overseas**

Alison, Kristine, Katie, and Sarah are in Ghana for the semester, Mica in Costa Rica, Mandy in Spain, Sara in Denmark, and Maggie in Singapore—please consider emailing one or more of our 2010s who are overseas to let them know we are thinking of them. Being away from home for four months or more can bring certain challenges (new foods, culture, ways of teaching and learning to adjust to, etc.) and friendly emails from campus will likely be appreciated.