

**Music, Arts, and Culture in Ghana: Experience for Music Education:
MUED 583 - three credits, 8 - 23 July 2012**

Academic Statement/Student Engagement

World Music and, in particular, the drumming traditions of various cultures have become recognized as a vital aspect of an appropriate Music Education program in the PK-12 setting. Unfortunately, many Music Educators have little or no training/exposure to such music, with the resultant lack of inclusion in school music programs. This course will provide the opportunity for both practicing (field-based) Music Educators as well as current upper level Music Education students to experience direct instruction in drumming, gyill playing, and dance in the Ghanaian cultural traditions by native artists/teachers and develop instructional strategies for bringing this wealth of human culture into their own classrooms in the US.

The purpose of this course is, indeed, student engagement with the Ghanaian culture and people through the arts. The pre-trip Orientation Sessions will guide students in preparation for an understanding and appreciation of the cultural origins of the primary Ghanaian cultures, the impact of colonization, the current political and cultural structures in post-colonial Ghana. Particular attention will be given to ensuring student awareness of cultural attitudes and preferences in Ghanaian society and how interact in a sensitive, respectful, and supportive manner. Seven days/nights of the course will be spent at the Dagara Music and Arts Center in Nsawam, a suburb of the capitol, Accra, living within the village in dormitory-style housing. Meals will be taken with the instructors and their families at the Center, with opportunities to interact with members of the larger community. While in Accra, the students will be engaged in leading Music Education opportunities with school children at the Grace Home International School in the village of Adoteiman and as part of the feeding and health outreach program for street children coordinated by Sovereign Global Missions. Additional engagement opportunities will be offered with local artists and musicians through the Centre for National Culture, with students being encouraged to develop professional relationships upon which to draw in the future. It is hoped that lasting friendships and further professional/personal interactions will be one result of the course.

Programmatic Details

Orientation

Three Orientation Sessions will be held prior to departure: the beginning of March, the middle of April, and the second week of June. Additionally, an “in-country” orientation will be held after arrival in Ghana as an introduction to the city of Accra.

Housing

Housing in Accra will be at the Hotel President in the Adabraka section of Accra. This is a typical Ghanaian business-level hotel and is centrally located to many cultural attractions and events. Students will be roomed in pairs. Housing at the Dagara Music and Arts Center will be dormitory-style in buildings maintained by and immediately adjacent to the Center (approximately 100 feet). Students will be grouped approximately 2-4 per room, with single and bunk beds available.

Excursions/Transportation

Transportation and excursions will be coordinated by both the Dagara Music and Arts Center and Sovereign Global Missions (SGM). Transportation to and from the airport, and to various cultural and teaching events will be handled by SGM; transportation to and from the Hotel President to the Dagara Music and Arts Center will be handled by the Dagara Center. Admission costs and other fees for trips to Cape Coast, Kakom Nature Reserve, Centre for National Culture, etc will be handled through SGM as part of our fees paid.

Tentative Itinerary

- Early March, 2012:** **Orientation Session - VCU**
- Mid-April, 2012:** **Orientation Session - VCU**
- Early June, 2012:** **Orientation Session - VCU**
- 8 July, 2012:** **Depart For Accra**
- 9 July, 2012:** **Arrive Accra - Hotel President**
- 10 July, 2012:** **Orientation Session; Tour Centre for National Culture**
- 11 July 2012:** **Arrive Dagara Music and Arts Center**
- 11 - 18 July, 2012:** **Instruction and residency at Dagara Center (seven nights)**
- 18 July, 2012:** **Arrive Hotel President**
- 19 July, 2012:** **Music Education Outreach Sessions at Grace Home International School**
- 20 - 21 July, 2012:** **Tour: Cape Coast, Kakom Nature Reserve, Centre for National Culture**
- 22 July, 2012:** **Music Education Outreach Sessions at SGM Feeding/Health Outreach CMB section of Accra**
- 23 July, 2012:** **Depart for return to US**

Program Director Background

In June, 2009, I studied at the Dagara Music and Arts Center in Ghana as well as with artists at the Centre for National Culture. Additionally, I conducted outreach Music Education through SGM while in Ghana. I have direct, personal experience with the locations, organizations, and persons proposed for the study abroad course

As a Music Educator, I have an extensive background in coordinating and leading ensembles and classes on various tours and learning trips, including ensemble tours through out the US as well as the UK. I am skilled in leading diverse groups and with crisis management, both large scale and by individual. Additionally, I have lived in Germany and Japan and traveled extensively overseas, including professional music/theatre tours.