

GST 272: Periclean Scholars

Meets: 10:30-12:10 Tuesdays and Thursdays
Fall 2007
Elon University

Instructor: Dr. Heidi G. Frontani
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Course Description: This course will focus on socio-economic development in Africa, with a special focus on Ghana. Development issues will be addressed within the broader political, social and cultural contexts. Cases studies will be used to address what can be done to level uneven development and access to resources among especially vulnerable stakeholder groups such as ethnic and religious minorities, women, peasant farmers and fishers. This seminar is the foundational course in the Periclean Scholars program and acceptance into the 2010 Periclean Scholars class is a pre-requisite. Experiential learning, or learning by doing, is significant portion of this and other Periclean Scholars courses. By the end of the series of five Periclean Scholars courses you will have gained an understanding of the philosophy behind 'participatory development', learned how to 'do development work' and experienced some of the challenges and rewards of being an informed and active global citizen.

Course Goals and Objectives:

- **IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES:** Our number one goal for our sequence of five Periclean Scholars classes is to improve the lives of Ghanaian people. There are more than 22 million Ghanaians, so we can't expect to assist everyone.
Objective: Receive feedback from Ghanaians that our work is making a positive difference in their lives.
- **SUSTAINABLE PROJECT(S):** In this foundational seminar our goal will be to select, in consultation with experts, two or three communities in Ghana with which to establish relations and do specific development projects. These communities will likely be in or close to cities or villages visited annually by Elon's Ghana Abroad Program. This will allow our project(s) to be sustainable and continue beyond 2010.
Objective: Establish two to three development projects in Ghana and begin to devise a plan for each project's long term sustainability
- **COLLABORATE EFFECTIVELY:** The 2010 class of Periclean Scholars forms a community of learners with a common interest in African Studies/Ghanaian Studies and/or Development Studies. We have the special opportunity by virtue of being in the Periclean Scholars program to develop strong ties with likeminded people through multiple shared classes over several years. Our goal will be to collaborate effectively, keeping the 'big picture' (our number one goal) in mind, each doing our share of the work, and demonstrating respect for members of our learning community even if we disagree.
Objectives: To work together such that when we disagree with one another we express ourselves in a civil manner and begin to form lasting friendships.
- **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:** Part of effective development work involves outreach and education or getting the word out about what problems exist and letting people know how they might help solve these problems. In addition to planning specific development projects in Ghana, we will work to educate the US public, starting with the Elon campus.

Objectives: Host multiple educational events including guest speakers, information tables at Moseley Center, and at least one presentation at an area elementary or secondary school. Design and order tee shirts to advertise our program. Get publicity in campus and area newspapers through feature articles or ads for our events (*Pendulum, Times-News, Rock Creek Record, and News and Record*). Submit Ghana-focused research abstracts for possible presentation at NCUR. Host an African dinner with Ghanaian food. Host films, a poster display, an African fashion show, a band and cultural group with Africa-inspired performances, and a 'Read for Africa.' Meeting our objectives will inform people about the positive cultural contributions of Africans and the challenges faced by people living in poorer countries including Ghana.

- **FUND RAISING:** Getting the word out will help us with our goal of fund raising. People do not generally offer financial support to causes they know nothing about. The more money we raise the more likely we are to make a greater impact in the communities with which we partner. Some outreach/educational events may also serve to raise funds.

Objective: Raise \$9,000 in grants and direct donations. This objective, although considerable, is based raising slightly the amount raised in a similar time frame; we raised approximately \$7,800 from mid-April to mid-August, 2007.

- **PERSONAL GROWTH:** Development work is not charity. We give because we want to and because we can, but must recognize that we often receive or take much more than we give. Our Ghanaian hosts will be teaching us about their cultures and ways of life, how to find happiness with few material possessions, live life consuming virtually no fossil fuels, demonstrate respect for elders, value community over individual well-being, creatively recycle and reuse, and keep up hope in the face of many significant life challenges. Thus, our final goal is to undergo personal growth, in part through being appropriately humble in recognition that the many intangible gifts we will receive from Ghanaians are much more valuable than our (most likely) more tangible ones. In measures of human happiness across cultures the intangibles (positive social relations, strong friendships, respect, feelings of self-worth, etc.) are consistently recognized as superior to the tangibles (nice car, big house, fine clothing, jewelry, etc.).

Objectives: For each 2010 Periclean to develop an individual three-year plan of what they hope to achieve on a semester by semester basis in the Periclean Scholars program. For the majority of 2010 Periclean Scholars to be able to self-report in their progress reports or final reflection paper specific incidences or challenges which in their opinion contributed to their personal growth.

Grading Scale:

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| A | Excellent work, generally the top 10 of the class. (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. | |

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date due and may only be turned in late without penalty if you have a medical excuse AND spoke with or otherwise contacted AND came to an agreement with the instructor.

Required readings:

- Easterly, William 2006. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. Penguin Press.
- Gocking, Roger S. 2005. *The History of Ghana*. Greenwood Press.
- Salm, Steven J. and Toyin Falola 2002. *Culture and Customs of Ghana* (Culture and Customs of Africa series). Greenwood Press.

E-reserve readings will be available through our course BlackBoard site, including chapters from *The End of Poverty* by Jeffrey Sachs and a March 2006 article on Civic Service in Schools from *Compare: A Journal of Comparative Education* (Vol. 36, Issue 1, pp. 23-40).

Course requirements:

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| Map quiz | September 6 th | 5 percent |
| Three year plan | September 27 th | 10 percent |
| Four progress reports (describe progress on class and individual goals) | Due monthly (mid-month) | 4 @15 percent each = 60 percent |
| Class participation (includes a presentation on research or class readings and a quiz on reading materials) | Every class period | 15 percent |
| Reflection essay | Due during final exam period | 10 percent |

MAP QUIZ: For the map quiz you will be given a word bank and a blank map of Ghana. You will put the number corresponding to the proper physical feature, country, or city on the appropriate place on the blank map and show the extent of the feature (dot for a city, line for a river, etc.).

CLASS PARTICIPATION: We will not have formal exams. You will demonstrate your knowledge of course readings through active participation in class discussions and one quiz. Every person need not speak in every class period, but most people should speak most class periods. For several readings there will be study guides/discussion questions posted in advance on BlackBoard and they will form the basis of our discussions. Class participation will also be based on the quiz on reading materials, contributions to brainstorming sessions, discussion of progress to date on our class goals, and presentations individually or in pairs of items and issues researched in pursuit of our individual and class goals, and demonstration of the ability to collaborate effectively.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND THREE-YEAR PLAN: You will keep track of your contributions towards meeting group/course goals and your individual goals for the first semester of your three-year plan and summarize these contributions in a one to two page typed progress report due every three weeks or so. The first report is due September 13th.

SAMPLE Three Year Plan (to give you an idea of what one might look like)

NOTE: Individual three-year plans will vary considerably by student, but each should include a summary, information on proposed major and minor, and entries for each fall, winter, spring, and summer from fall 2007 through spring 2010. Generally each Periclean Scholar will propose one major/longer term project and one to three minor/shorter term project(s) to conduct over their three years, plus assist with fundraising. [Note: for a Business Major the major project and/or minor project(s) may be fundraising project(s).]

Each student's three-year plan should draw on his or her strengths and fit within his or her overall academic and/or career objectives (i.e. a cinema student might propose a film project related to Ghana or Ghanaians, an English major a writing project which results in an article, short story, or poem about Ghana in a campus or national-level publication, a business student create or support a small business in Ghana, an art student create a painting, mural, sculpture, or photography exhibit on Ghana or members of its Diaspora, a sport management major organize an Africa Fest on campus with sporting, musical, research and other components, a theatre student perform in a play written by an English student which highlights the life of a Ghanaian with AIDS, a pre-med student volunteer at a hospital in Ghana for a semester, an 'undecided' major organize for a Ghanaian or Ghanaian-American to visit campus to speak with our class and other classes, etc.). Students from any major can propose research papers/ presentations at the campus or national level. These are just SOME IDEAS, be creative in designing your own three-year plan.

Name: _____

Proposed major: Communications, with a concentration in Cinema

Minor(s): African/African-American Studies

Summary

My goals are to: give a SURF presentation in my sophomore year; research, obtain video footage, and study abroad in London my junior year; edit my film footage my senior year. My major contribution will be to create a short video highlighting life in one or more predominantly African-descended communities in London (Brixton, Dalston, and/or Lewisham) for use by Elon's International Programs office to encourage students planning to study in London to actively seek out the city's vibrant, but less-visited immigrant communities.

Sophomore Year

FALL 2007

- My major individual goal for GST 272 will be to in the area of outreach and education. My plan is to access Ghanaian newspapers online to gather information on contemporary issues related to communications and the mass media in Ghana for a possible Student Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) presentation in the spring. I plan to read Ghanaian newspapers two to three times per week over 10-12 weeks. By mid-November I will write a 12 to 15 page paper on my research.
- I'll give a timed 15 minute presentation in GST 272 on my research as a trial run for SURF.

WINTER 2008

- I plan to take a course on campus towards my JCM major and time permitting continue to work on my 'Contemporary Issues in Communications and Mass Media in Ghana' paper.

SPRING 2008

- I will submit my abstract to the Undergraduate Research Program in late February in the hopes of giving a SURF presentation in April
- Enrollment in GEO 320 Africa's People and Environments to keep up with other Pericleans, learn more about Africa, and gain credit hours towards a minor in African/African-American Studies. I hope to begin research on the Ghanaian Diaspora (in Chicago, London, etc.) and the importance of remittances from these communities to Ghana's economy. I would use Baumann (1996), Danziger (1997), Hamnett (2003), McAuley (1993) and other sources.

SUMMER 2008

- Relax and spend time with family and friends. Time and funds permitting, I may stop in Chicago for the annual Ghana Fest and/or attend the African Film Festival in New York City.

Junior Year

FALL 2008

- In PER 371 I will continue research on the Ghanaian Diaspora with an emphasis on Ghanaians living in Southeast London. I will formulate the story line for my short film and come up with the questions I will ask people while studying abroad in London in the spring.
- I will submit all relevant forms to Elon's Institutional Review Board (IRB) in order to gain the required approval do work with human subjects.

WINTER 2009

- I would like to spend January in Ghana with Elon's study abroad program. I will be able to visit one or more of the sites where our class will have ongoing development projects. I hope to do a bit of fundraising at home over the holidays to contribute to the funds our class is raising. I will ask the Ghanaian lecturers speaking with our study abroad class if they have any relatives living in London. This will give me an 'in' when I arrive. The Ghana program passes through London on the way back to the USA so this will be a perfect way to begin my spring term.

SPRING 2009

- Spend the semester in London. Conduct interviews and film in South/Southeast London (hopefully I can work this into one of the classes I'll be taking for credit).

SUMMER 2009

- I'd like to travel in Europe a bit before heading home.

Senior Year

FALL 2009

- Use PER 471 to edit my hours of London footage down to 15-20 minutes. Try to get the film in good enough shape to show to students planning to study abroad in London.

WINTER 2010

- Final edits on my film while taking a course on campus.

SPRING 2010

- Enroll in PER 472 and use my short film to help me get a job or graduate school offer. Graduate as a 2010 Periclean Scholar!

References mentioned in my three year plan:

- Baumann, Gerd 1996. *Contesting Culture: Discourses of Identity in Multi-Ethnic London*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Danziger, Nick 1997. 'Brixton' pp. 9-19 in *Danziger's Britain*. London: Harper Collins.
- Hamnett, Chris 2003. *Unequal City: London in the Global Arena*. London: Routledge.
- McAuley, Ian 1993. 'Black London' pp. 185-214 in *Ethnic London*. London: IMMEL Publishing.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1—Re-introduce ourselves, updates on summer fundraising, discussion of our role in the recruitment of the 2011 class of Periclean scholars, form committees, and begin to plan for fall fundraising activities including discussion of campus level grants for which we might apply. Wire the \$4,000 we raised over the summer to Dr. Amedahe in Ghana to continue with the construction of the rural health center we are building there in partnership with the people of Kpoeta. Set semester fundraising goal (\$9,000 in grant and non-grant support) and service hours goal (1,000 hours).

Week 2—Learn about Elon's winter term and semester programs in Ghana from student guest speaker Nina Foucheux. Learn about opportunities through the African/African-American Studies program at Elon from Director Dr. Prudence Layne. Map quiz. Get featured in the campus newspaper: http://org.elon.edu/pendulum/issues/2007/09_05_07/09_05_07_PERICLEAN_SCHOLARS_MAKE_A_STATEMENT.shtml

Week 3—Take our class and individual photos and have each 2010 submit a personal blurb for the student-run version of our website (<http://periclean.sigsecure.net/Home/tabid/845/Default.aspx>) which will eventually replace our existing, faculty-run website (<http://org.elon.edu/pericleanscholars2010>), begin work on creating a logo for our class, along with formal letterhead and an official fundraising letter. Make arrangements for our Periclean-in-Residence (guest speaker) to visit campus, speak with our class and to the campus. Learn how we can partner with our speaker's organization (Atidetake).

Week 4—Continue discussions of our readings, but begin to switch over to student-led discussions. Learn more about the Ghana Abroad from program leader Dr. Brian Digre as well as the Heifer International initiative in Sokode, Ghana with which we can assist. Learn about two of Ghana's important leaders as well as family life in rural and urban Ghana through videos. Fall fundraising activities (meal card swiping and Fund for Excellence grant writing). Work on our three year plans.

Week 5—Compile our individual three year plans into a group three year plan. Continue making crafts for sale with fabric Dr. Frontani brought from Ghana. Steering Committee members will meet with Elon's Trustees and present materials on our program to them. Bonding events will be scheduled: including a 'speed dating' activity in class and cookout outside of class.

Week 6—Begin planning for hosting additional speakers as well as cultural groups, an African dinner, fashion show, and more. Host our Periclean-in-Residence (Dr. Augustus Vogel, Director of Atidetake) and continue with fundraising (work football concessions) for the health center in Kpoeta, Ghana.

Week 7—Begin to strengthen pan-Periclean bonds. Host students from the 2009 Periclean Scholars class and discuss ways to collaborate on projects in the future. Evan Ross ('09 Periclean) will give a presentation on Ghana's Akosombo Dam. Begin to collect books for the Abor Elementary School in Ghana where Dr. Vogel worked as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Week 8 — Begin work on designing Footprints of Africa event tee shirts as well as class tee shirts and pan-Periclean/program tee shirts. Host former Ghana Peace Corps volunteer Keri Willever of Warren Wilson College, NC. Watch and discuss a video related to our *End of Poverty* readings (video: *Malawi: A Nation Going Hungry*). Begin to purchase school supplies for Sokode, Ghana schools.

Week 9—Participate in pan-Periclean meeting at Homecoming, learn about fundraising opportunities through Varsity Gold program, begin work on 'handprint banners' (friendship banners with handprints on them) to be carried to Ghana over winter term and given to the people of Sokode and Kpoeta. Host an educational table at the Burlington Square Mall. Update our educational brochures for our projects.

Week 10—Watch and discuss the video *Witches in Exile* about women in northern Ghana. Get a 2010 Periclean event on the spring cultural calendar (Earth Day, April 22, 2008). Discuss our progress to date and prepare for the upcoming quiz, create a Picasa website for sharing photos of our speakers and events, work on a grant to the Center for Teaching and Learning for program assessment.

Week 11—Continue planning for Footprints of Africa events, host winter term Ghana program alumni ('99) Letitia Lee, continue to assist Dr. Vogel with the initiative to bring children's books to his former elementary school library in Abor, Ghana. Continue to assist with the recruitment of 2011 Pericleans.

Week 12—Have students who worked on research on Ghana over the summer present their research to the class and submit their research abstracts to NCUR. Continue with fundraising (dorm storms, assist 2008 Pericleans in their fundraising, etc.) for Kpoeta, Sokode, and Abor initiatives in Ghana.

Week 13—Turn in completed posters for Footprints of Africa event, bring funds to purchase class and event tee-shirts, hear from student guest speaker Justine Davis who spent a semester in Ghana and a semester in Senegal. Create program, flyers, and newspaper ads for Footprints of Africa events.

Week 14—Outreach to area elementary school (talk on Ghana), continue school supplies and start art supplies drives for Sokode, continue getting thank you cards out to our speakers and donors, discussion of Ghana Fest (each July in Chicago); welcome our guests Dr. Roger Gocking (Mercy College, NY and author of our *History of Ghana* book) and Namibian HIV/AIDS activist Anita Isaacs.

Week 15—Host our major outreach and education event for the semester, the ‘Footprints of Africa’ events on campus November 27th-December 1st. Footprints of Africa schedule: information tables on the 27th, screening of the Class of 2006 Periclean Scholars film ‘You Wake Me Up’ on the 28th, African dance lessons and a storytelling/drumming/dance performance by The Healing Force, a talk by Dr. Roger Gocking on the History of Ghana, and a Friendship Dance for Africa with live music by Different Drum on the 29th, an African Fashion Show, Read for Africa, and two West African Dinners on the 30th, and a Ghana-oriented battle of the bands and talks by African Services Coalition (African immigrant group) and HIV/AIDS activist from Namibia, Anita Isaacs on the 1st. Arrange for a potluck gathering during our final exam period with Ms. Isaacs before she returns to Namibia. Deliver the school supplies we have purchased for Sokode to Dr. Digre’s office, so his students can carry them to Ghana through the Winter Term abroad program. Deliver the children’s books collected to Dr. Vogel in Washington, DC (Periclean who lives in the area will do this). Prepare for the transfer of another \$2,000 to support construction of the rural health center in Kpoeta. Begin to purchase medical supplies for the Kpoeta facility. Officially log our service hours so they can appear on our Elon Experiences Transcripts. Reflect on and potentially revise our plan for what we hope to achieve between now and our next official class together in fall 2008.