

**AIS 195: UVM In Ghana - A Discovery Program**  
**May 20 – June 5, 2009**

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**Program Overview:**

This is a program in discovery. It seeks to offer a platform for students to acquaint themselves with the broad tenets of the Ghanaian culture (including food, music, dance, religion, modes of communication, traditional authority, and local language usage) and history (focusing on slavery, colonialism and contemporary politics). Based on an interdisciplinary approach, the program will combine participation in cultural activities, travel to relevant sites with local language learning and formal seminar presentations on selected topics, in order to actualize its broad aims of bringing American students close to a cultural understanding of a relatively less known Ghanaian culture and reality. Resource persons will include the University of Cape Coast Professors, traditional rulers, tour guides and practitioners from non-governmental agencies. The program is open to students who wish to be challenged in ways that are creative in a supportive and stimulating environment. The program will allow room for a “three-day home-stay”, self-reflection and project work.

**Course Objectives:**

A major objective, here, is to provide an interdisciplinary program that opens possibilities for non-locals to appreciate the complexities of the ideologies that guide the diurnal practices of the people of present day Ghana. The program is interactive. Participants will be expected to become part of the planned activities. The program’s language component will cover topics, such as ‘self-introduction,’ ‘greeting and leave-taking’, and ‘shopping.’ The formal lectures on aspects of the local culture (women, politics, religion, the arts, etc.) will set a context for participants to make meaning out of their experiences with the wider cultural context. The program’s site visits, lectures, “home-stay” experience and activities will provide such a context that should augment participants’ own perspective, if any, about Ghana’s historical and cultural heritage.

**Suggested Reading:**

Anquandah, Kwesi J. Castles and Forts of Ghana Paris: Atalante, 1999.  
Azevedo, Mario, ed. African Studies: A Survey of Africa and the African Diaspora  
Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 1993 (chapters 1 &2)  
Mann, Kristin & Bay, Edna G. eds. Rethinking the African Diaspora London: Frank Cass  
2001 (selected readings)  
Olaniyan, Richard, ed. African History and Culture Lagos, Longman Nigeria 1982