ANTH 2690 - B
WINTER 2019
Ethnography of Contemporary Ghana

Instructor: Karine Geoffrion

Office: D795
Office Hours: Thursday 1 pm – 2:30; Friday 10:30 am – 11:30
Email: karinegeoffrion@cunet.carleton.ca
Phone Number: n.a.

Course meets: Fridays, 11:35 am – 2:25 pm, Mackenzie Building 4332
Course Description and Objectives:
Through the exploration of ethnographic work on contemporary cultural practices and ideologies in Ghana, and through the critical analysis of novels, films and other artistic works, this course aims at setting the ground for an appreciation of the rich cultural diversity found in the geo-political area now called Ghana. The course will examine broad themes such as food, music, religious and spiritual beliefs and practices, kinship, marriage, gender and sexualities. We will also explore what it means to be Ghanaian today in a globalized world characterized by migration, transnationalism and diasporic identities.

Course objectives
- Get a “feel” of Ghana as it is socio-culturally, politically, economically and technologically positioned within the sub region and the world today.
- Situate Ghana, as a geo-political entity and a place that informs the identity construction of Ghanaians, in today’s globalized world.
- Examine specific topics related to Ghanaian traditions and identities in relation to anthropological theory.
- Explore and address global (power) dynamics relative to the local and transnational mobility of Ghanaians.
- Develop a critical anthropological perspective on various types of representations of Ghana and Ghanaians (fiction, news reports, ethnographic studies, anecdotes and personal accounts).
- Build critical reading skills and understanding of ethnographic materials.

Readings:
There is no textbook for this course.

Reading material (PDF files) is available on the online platform of this course (CUlearn) and on ARES (library reserves). For each class, a list of required readings is provided (please refer to the week by week schedule below). The readings must be completed before each class. Required readings are supplemented with a list of optional and complimentary readings. I strongly encourage you to read at least one of the optional readings every class, as they will strengthen your arguments and enrich the discussion.

It is the responsibility of each student to get access to and to (actively) read the required articles prior to each class. Readings will be discussed in class with the support of students’ critical comments and questions that will have to be submitted every class period (see the evaluation section for further details on this assignment).

In addition to the required texts listed in the week-by-week schedule, students need to read 1 of the following novels:

Complementary monographies:

**Communications with the instructor**
Students are welcome to consult with me about any matter concerning this course, via e-mail, via Skype, or in person during office hours (as well as after class, or by appointment).

A note on emails: In general, I respond to emails within 48 hours (Monday to Friday) and I usually don’t respond to work emails on weekends (starting Friday after 5:00 p.m., until Monday 8:00 a.m.). Because I receive an impressive volume of emails every day, if you email me with a question that is already answered in this syllabus, I will not answer your email. Otherwise, if you have difficulty accessing the readings, need to discuss the content of the lectures, cannot complete your work on time and need an extension, or want to talk about any other aspects relating to this course, you are more than welcome to email me!

**Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item for Evaluation</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Submission date</th>
<th>Mode of submission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. CRITICAL COMMENTS</strong></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td><strong>EVERY WEEK</strong></td>
<td>TYPED OR HAND WRITTEN AND BROUGHT TO CLASS</td>
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<td>6 x 3%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1x 2%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bonus Comment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>CLASS 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2. FILM ANALYSIS</strong></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>CLASS 6- FEBRUARY 15</td>
<td>IN CLASS-OPEN BOOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. GHANA PEER-PAIRING PROJECT</strong></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td>DROPBOX ON CULEARN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(WITH STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10% DIARY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10% ESSAY</td>
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<td><strong>4. COMPREHENSIVE EXAM:</strong></td>
<td>30% (TOTAL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15% ESSAY BASED ON NOVEL</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15% GENERAL ESSAY QUESTION</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>CLASS 10</strong> (MARCH 22)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ON CULEARN (5 HOURS)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5. PARTICIPATION</strong></td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td>IN-CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>(SELF-EVALUATION)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1. Critical comments (20%)
Every week, students will have to submit a short critical comment (handwritten or typed) in class, based on one of the readings for that specific class-period (required or optional). A total of 7 comments will be collected throughout the semester. The first 6 will be worth 3 marks and the last one will be worth 2 marks for a total of 20% of your final grade.

Comments will be peer-assessed in the second half of the class period and collected at the end of the period. Grades given by peers must be justified in writing on the comment sheet. I may reassess grades as needed.

Students who have missed a comment will have the possibility of writing a bonus comment relative to readings on Class 11. For students who had completed all their comments, this bonus comment may replace an earlier comment if the grade is higher.

To write a good critical comment is an art. A good critical comment shows that you have read the material and that you are able to push the discussion further. For example, you could draw links between a specific reading and a concept seen previously in class or, you could use a personal experience to further exemplify (or question) the concepts or theories explained in the reading. The objective is not to criticize the reading in an unconstructive way, but to identify main themes and ideas, challenge the author’s ideas in light of other course materials and build on the case study of theoretical approach developed in order to contribute to a broader intellectual debate.

- Maximum 1 page (double spaced, font 12)
- Comments that pertain to readings we have already discussed in class will not be accepted. Any comment submitted late will be discarded.
- Make sure you properly cite the article(s) your comment refers to.

2. Film analysis (20%)
- Open books
A film will be presented in class on February 15 (class 6). The objective is to identify 2 main themes or issues exposed in the film and to develop them in the light of the material seen in class.

3. Ghana peer-pairing project
Each student will be paired with a Ghanaian student from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. After getting acquainted, the pair will choose a topic from the syllabus (e.g. spirituality, love, transport, sexuality, migration, identity, etc.). They will discuss the topic from their own locally grounded experience. For example, if you choose to discuss food, you could decide to do a Skype meeting during which each of you will prepare a local specialty dish and then discuss why you like that dish, how it relates to your own identity, etc. The objective of this assignment is to share views and everyday life experiences on a specific topic using a comparative lens grounded in both Ghana and Canada.

This project wouldn’t have been possible without the collaboration of Prof. Georgina Yaa Oduro.

Modalities of evaluation:
- **Diary (ethnographic journal) 10%**: A diary of all interactions, impressions and meta-commentaries, should be kept and submitted by **April 5** (last class). A minimum of **3 interactions** (emails, Skype meeting, voice calls, etc.) is expected.
Final essay 10%: in a 5-page essay, the material gathered should be contextualized and analyzed in the light of the material seen in class. A minimum of 4 academic references is expected. Specific guidelines will be provided at the beginning of the term. Submission date: April 9.

4. Comprehensive exam (30%)
The comprehensive exam will assess comprehension of all course material up to and including Class 10 (March 22). The exam consists of 2 sections. In the first section, student will write an essay on the novel they chose to read (15%). The aim is to articulate the main themes emerging from the novel to the material seen in class. The second section will propose 2 broad essays questions covering several themes discussed in class; only 1 of these questions will have to be answered (15%). Again, the objective is to show understanding of the material seen in class by explaining and illustrating concepts and by drawing links between the different authors’ perspectives and approaches to ethnographic data.

This assignment will be done at the location of your choice, via the CUlearn platform. You will have a maximum of 5 hours to write your exam on March 22 (more details will be provided soon).

5. Participation (10%)

Self-evaluation of participation: 10% will be attributed to the overall quality of your contribution. This is a self-evaluation. You will assess your own contribution to this course based on criteria such as assiduity, preparedness, engagement with class materials and with the work of your colleagues, active listening and participation to discussions in class and online.

Marks will be removed for every non-motivated absence.

A note on written assignments
All written assignments, with the exception of in-class writings, must be typed. Unless specified, please use standard font (12 point), standard margins, double-spacing and include page numbers. It is essential that you keep a hard and electronic copy of all your written assignments.

Your electronic documents’ titles should always start with your last name and then, the name of your assignment (e.g. Geoffrion_comprehensive exam)

Please submit your document in Word format only. No PDF files allowed!

Your paper must make explicit and direct references to the required readings, cited appropriately (if you have questions about appropriate citation practices, please consult the Instructor or TA. There are also lots of useful resources available, including through Carleton’s library, see http://www.library.carleton.ca/research/subject-guides/sociology#writing-and-citing).

Course calendar (in brief)

Some topics may be removed or postponed in order to make room for special guest speakers or to adjust to class dynamics and interests; please verify posts on CULearn regularly!
**Part I. Feeling Ghana: Food, music, love and “blood money”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class 1</th>
<th>January 11</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>Ghana in the world: an overview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>For the love of fufu. Food and eating in Ghana and abroad</td>
<td>Comment 1 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Spirituality and religion</td>
<td>Comment 2 (3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Class 4  | February 1  | Love and marriage (kinship) | Comment 3 (3%)  
|          |             |                | • Discussion on peer-pairing project |
| Class 5  | February 8  | Gender and (Homo)sexualities | Comment 4 (3%) |
| Class 6  | February 15 | Ghanaian film industry | Film analysis (20%) |

February 22 - Reading week—NO CLASS

**Part II. Ghanaian mobilities From trotro rides to transnational routes**

| Class 7  | March 1   | Ghanaians on the road(s): The lived experience of (im)mobility | Comment 5 (3%) |
| Class 8  | March 8   | Back to Ghana? Root tourism | Comment 6 (3%) |
| Class 9  | March 15  | Transnational networks and families | Comment 7 (2%) |
| Class 10 | March 22  | | Comprehensive exam (30%) |
| Class 11 | March 29  | (Trans)national identity formations, citizenship and home | Bonus comment (3%) |
| Class 12 | April 5   | Closing remarks | Self-evaluation of participation (10%) |

**Calendar with readings**

**Class 1 – January 11**
**Introduction to the course**
➢ No readings

**Class 2- January 18**
For the love of fufu. Food and eating in Ghana and abroad

**Required readings:**
Optional reading:

**Class 3 – January 25**

**Spirituality and religion: “juju”, blood money and charismatic pastors**

**Required readings:**

**Optional readings:**

**Class 4 – February 1**

**Love and marriage**

**Required readings:**

**Optional readings:**

**Class 5 – February 8**  
**Gender and (Homo)sexualities**

**Required readings:**

**Optional readings:**

**Class 6 – February 15**

- Film analysis (15%)
- No readings

……………………Winter break……………………………………………………………………

**Class 7 – March 1**  
**Ghanaians on the road(s): The lived experience of (im)mobility**

**Required readings:**

**Optional readings:**

Class 8 – March 8
Back to Ghana: Root tourism

Required readings:

Optional readings:

Class 9 - March 15
Transnational networks and families

Required readings:

Optional readings:
Class 10 – March 22
- Comprehensive exam (30%)
- No readings

Class 11 – March 29
(Trans)national dentity formations, citizenship and home

Required readings:

Optional readings:

Class 12 – April 5
Closing remarks
- Self-evaluation of participation (10%)
- No readings

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WDN</td>
<td>Withdrawn from the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEF</td>
<td>Deferred (See above)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.
University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website, here: [www.calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity](http://www.calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity)

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:
Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the Winter 2019 (April) exam period is March 15, 2019.

For Religious Obligations:
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Pregnancy:
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf
**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

**What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?**
A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

**What are the Procedures?**
All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

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**Assistance for Students:**
Academic and Career Development Services: [http://carleton.ca/sacds/](http://carleton.ca/sacds/)
Writing Services: [http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/](http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/)
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): [https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/](https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/)

**Important Information:**
- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton’s Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario’s *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to
activate your MyCarletonOne account through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the MyCarleton Portal.

- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting https://students.carleton.ca/

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**Important Dates**

**Winter 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Winter term classes begin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Deferred final assignments and/or take-home examinations for Fall Term 0.5 credit courses are due.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18-20, 25-27</td>
<td>Fall term deferred examinations will be written.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from Winter term and Winter portion of Fall/Winter courses with full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN to appear on the official transcript.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>April exam schedule available online.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18-22</td>
<td>Winter Break, classes suspended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Last day for summative tests or final examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade in Winter term courses before the official examination period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Winter term ends. Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses. Last day for take-home examinations to be assigned (except those that conform to the Academic Regulations of the University in the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar). Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12-27</td>
<td>Final Examinations for Winter and Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19-21</td>
<td>Statutory Holiday, University closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>All take-home examinations are due except those that conform to the academic Regulations of the University in the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.</td>
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</table>