AFRI 3100 Study Abroad Course: Ghana, May 2015

Prof. Chris Brown of the Department of Political Science will lead the 2015 Institute of African Studies course abroad, the fifth in the series. This course is open to all Carleton students with third year standing. Previous courses took place in South Africa (2011), Burkina Faso (2012), Ghana (2013) and Rwanda (2014). The 2015 course will take place in Ghana , from May 4 to May 24 inclusive. The course topic will be "Ghana: The Challenges of Democracy and Development in Africa."

Ghana has always been a pace-setter for Africa. It was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve Independence, in 1957. The 1966 coup that overthrew its first President, Kwame Nkrumah, was a shattering event that shocked all of Africa and spelled "the end of the illusion" about post-Independence Africa. After Nkrumah's overthrow, Ghana suffered through several decades of coups, military and civilian misrule, and economic decline. In the 1980s, under charismatic military leader Jerry Rawlings, Ghana embraced neo-liberal structural adjustment policies and became the darling of the World Bank. As the "Third Wave" of democratization was sweeping Africa in the 1990s, Rawlings re-invented himself as a democrat, ushering in Ghana's 4th Republic in 1992. Since that time, Ghana has become one of the most stable democracies in Africa, with two peaceful transitions of power through the ballot-box. Over the last decade, it has also experienced a high rate of economic growth, allowing it to achieve "middle-income country" status. Today, the outlook for Ghana is strong, though significant challenges remain in addressing continued rural poverty and regional imbalances and in consolidating democracy. As it faces these challenges, Ghana will remain, as it always has been, an African leader.

This course will examine the challenges of building democracy and development in Ghana. It will cover the entire Independence period, though it will focus on contemporary events. It will be led by



Prof. Brown, though it will feature guest presentations by Ghanaian academics, government officials and civil society leaders. The first two weeks of the course will take place in the capital, Accra, while the last week will take place in Tamale, the capital of the Northern Region. Both in Accra and Tamale, the course will combine classroom presentations with field visits to important political and economic institutions. The Tamale portion of the course will focus on issues of rural development and include visits to some local government offices in the north. Arrangements are being made for the course to be hosted by the Institute of Local Government Service (ILGS), which has campuses in both Accra and Tamale. It is hoped that it will be possible to arrange for some students from the University of Ghana to join us in the course. The course will also feature a weekend visit to Cape Coast Castle, the headquarters of the British slave trade during most of the slaving era, and to Kakum National Park, with its spectacular tree-top canopy walk.

Information sessions: **Tuesday, September 23rd, 3:00 – 4:30 pm, D382 Loeb** **OR** **Wednesday, October 1st, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, D382 Loeb**

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