This is an interdisciplinary course designed to study the life and times, intellectual thought and practical activity, of Ghana’s first president, Kwame Nkrumah. With the use of a variety of readings and audio-visual materials, this course will critically explore the socioeconomic and political factors that served to shape the life, thought, and times of Kwame Nkrumah. The persons, ideas, and events that influenced Nkrumah and the ideas, persons and events that he also impacted will be covered as well. Students interested in sociology, history, political science, economics, and cultural studies will find this course of particular interest as its subject matter will dovetail into each of these related fields of study.

The following specific areas will be covered over the span of the semester:

AUG 23 SOCIAL BIOGRAPHY OF KWAME NKRUMAH

AUG 30 POLITICAL ECONOMY OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

SEPT 6: EVOLUTION OF THE PAN-AFRICAN MOVEMENT

SEPT 13: GHANAIAN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

SEPT 20: COUNTERPARTS AND CONTEMPORARIES

SEPT 27: Field Trip to the W.E.B. DuBois Centre & George Padmore Library
OCT 4: THE IDEOLOGY OF NKRUMAISM

OCT 11: KWAME NKRUMAH’S POLICIES: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL

OCT 18: MIDTERM BREAK

OCT 25: MIDTERM EXAM

NOV 1: THE FEBRUARY 24, 1966 COUP & POST-COUP GHANA

NOV 8: LIFE AND TIMES OF NKRUMAH IN GUINEA

NOV 15: CRITICS AND DETRACTORS

NOV 22: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITES OF AFRICAN UNITY

NOV 29: THE NKRUMAH LEGACY IN RETROSPECT

DEC 6 FINAL EXAM

Quizzes and Exams

There will be three unannounced quizzes and two disclosed exams—a midterm and the final. The quizzes and exams will include, primarily, essay styled questions. The purpose of the quizzes and exams will be to gauge the students’ grasp of the material covered in the class lectures and in the assigned readings as well as to measure the students’ ability to reflect critically on the subject matter of the course.
Research Paper

A research paper of no less than 12 double-spaced typed pages will be required from each student. The subject matter of the research paper must address one of the subtopics of the course as approved by the professor. All students must turn in a copy of an outline of the specific topic chosen along with a brief annotated bibliography of sources within four weeks from the beginning of the course. The final paper is due, in class, on Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

Grading

The course will consist of three quizzes, worth 15%; two exams, worth 60%; and the research paper, worth 25%. Five points (extra credit) can be earned for consistent classroom participation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 Quizzes (5 points each)</th>
<th>15 points</th>
<th>100 – 90 = A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Exams (30 points each)</td>
<td>60 points</td>
<td>89 – 80 = B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Research Paper</td>
<td>25 points</td>
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100 points