

# NYU ACCRA

## HIST-UA 9573/IDSEM-UG 9050:

### Cocoa and Gold: Ghana's Development in Global Perspective

#### Instructor Information

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#### Course Information

- Course Code :CORE-HIST-UA 9537/IDSEM-SEM 9050
- Course Title: History: Cocoa and Gold: Ghana's Development Global Perspective
- Meeting: Mondays, 02:00pm - 05:00pm, Accra Academic Centre, Room 1

#### Course Description

This course explores Ghana's development in historical perspective from the colonial era to the recent postcolonial period. It provides an interdisciplinary history that is attentive to political economy, social relations, geography, and politics as they congeal in particular ways throughout Ghana's development trajectory. It traces the key forces at play in Ghanaian development through time, paying particular attention to the transformations prompted by the region's encounter with and incorporation into a global economy. Key historical moments will include the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the colonial era in light of their attendant reconfigurations of land, labor, and natural resources—as well as landscapes of power and politics. In the postcolonial period, the course will examine the central epochs in the country's development trajectory, in relation to its rich political history and shifting global discourses of development and geopolitics. This will include attention to dynamics such as Asian investment, urbanization, international development aid, and the discovery of oil. The goal of the course is to explore theories and debates in development through deep engagement with the specific trajectory of Ghana, as a sort of intensive case study. Field

visits (for instance to gold mines and cocoa fields) will be used to complement class discussions and to take advantage of the location of the course in Accra. Ghana's specific development trajectory will, in turn, be located alongside wider African and global South development trajectories as well as development debates and discourses whenever possible.

The course will be by lectures, discussions in class and field trips. Classes will proceed by way of the following themes:

- a. colonial society in Ghana in the 19<sup>th</sup> century;
- b. the rise of cocoa and gold as export commodities;
- c. migration and labor in cocoa and gold production; and
- d. new horizons in Ghana social and economic development: Asian investments and oil.

**Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:**

1. identify and explain the significant and key historical events and developments that shaped Ghana's social and economic development after the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade;
2. understand the integration of Ghana into the global economic system after the end of the Atlantic slave trade as a primary producer of cocoa and gold; and
3. understand the consequences and legacies of colonialism for Ghana's post colonial development

**Course Requirements**

1. Students are expected to read the assigned materials *before* lectures, take notes of the readings, and be prepared to discuss them in class. In particular, students should organise their notes on:
  - the thesis/theses (argument/arguments) of the reading;
  - the types of sources and evidence that the author uses to support the argument;
  - your assessment of the author's interpretations (are they convincing? How would you construct the arguments differently?);
  - questions that the reading raised for you, including points of agreement and disagreement; and
  - new lessons that you learnt or the take away lessons.
2. There will be five field trips:
  - the first one will be will be a tour of an old Danish slave plantation in Sesemi to explore the development of a slave plantation in Ghana after the abolition of the slave trade;
  - the second one will be to a cocoa processing plant in Accra/Tema;
  - the third one will be to the Cocoa Research Institute in Tafo and the cocoa growing areas in the Eastern Region of Ghana;

- the fourth one will be to the Newmont Gold Akyem in the Eastern Region of Ghana.
- the fifth one will be to the Museum of the Institute of African Studies of the University of Ghana to study the Akan Goldweights

You will write a 5-page typed written reflection paper on each field trip. Each paper will be graded over 10 accounting for 50% of the total grade.

### **Movie:**

There will be one movie:

1. It will be on the economic history of Ghana. It will be on the **6<sup>th</sup> of May 2019**.

You will write a 5-page typed written reflection paper on the movie. It will be graded over 10 accounting for 10% of the total grade.

### **Class Participation**

- a. Attendance in class will account for 10% of the end of semester grade.
- b. The first take away assignment is a 5-page reflective paper on Frederick Cooper: “Africa and the World Economy”, *African Studies Review*, vol. 24 no 2/3 (1981): 1 – 86. This material is available online on JSTOR. Please download. It will be due on **18 February 2019** and graded over 10.
- c. You will write a 5-page typed written reflection paper on the field trips to the Danish slave plantation at Sesemi. It will be due on **4 March 2019** and will be graded over 10.
- d. The mid semester examination will be a 5-page reflection paper on T.M. Akuko’s *One Man One Matchet* will be due on **Monday 11 March 2019**. It will be graded over 10
- e. You will write a 5-page reflection paper on the field visit to the Cocoa Processing Factory in Accra/Tema will be due on **Monday, 1 April 2019** and graded over 10.
- f. You will write a 5-page reflection paper on the field visit to Research Institute in Tafo. It will be due on **Monday, 15 April 2019** and graded over 10.
- g. You will write a 5-page reflection paper on the field trip to Newmount Gold Mine, Kyebi. It will be due on **Monday, 15 April 2019** and graded over 10.
- h. You will write a 5-page reflection paper on the visit to the Museum of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. It will be due on **22 April 2019** and graded over 10.
- i. You will write a response paper to the movie on the Economic History of Ghana. It will be due on **Monday, 7 May 2018**. It will be graded over 10
- j. The remaining 10% will be earned in the end of semester examinations. The end of semester examinations will be a 5-page typed written reflection paper on two journal articles. Please see the schedule for week 15: **the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2019**

All papers should be double-spaced and fully annotated. It should be typed in font 12 of Times New Roman. It should have your name and the title of the assignment and the date submitted in the header of the paper. Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component will result in failure of the class.

### Summary of grades

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date due</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Attendance	Throughout the semester	10
Frederick Cooper: "Africa and the World Economy", <i>African Studies Review</i> , vol. 24 no 2/3 (1981): 1 – 86. This material is available online on JSTOR.	18 February 2019	10
Response paper to field visit to Danish slave plantation in Sesemi	4 March 2019	10
Mid semester exam. Response paper to T.M. Akuko's <i>One Man One Matchet</i> . Online version available. Download and bring to class	11 March 2019	10
Response paper to field trip to cocoa processing factory in Accra/Tema	1 April 2019	10
Response paper to field trip Cocoa Research Institute, Tafo	15 April 2019	10
Response paper to field visit to field trip to Newmont Gold Akyem	15 April 2019	10
Reflection paper on the field visit to the Museum of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon	22 April 2019	10
Response paper to movie on Economic History of Ghana	13 May 2019	10
End of semester exam	20 May 2019	10

**Grade A:** An A student attends class regularly and always contributes to the class discussion by raising thoughtful questions, analyzing relevant issues; building on other's ideas and challenging assumptions/perspectives; all of his/her discussion questions reflect a synthesis of readings, guest presentations and discussions; all of his/her reflection/response papers eloquently link reading/discussion to his/her experience.

**Grade B:** A B student attends class regularly and sometimes contributes to the class discussion by raising thoughtful questions, analyzing relevant issues; building on other's ideas and challenging assumptions/perspectives; three-quarters of his/her discussion questions reflect a synthesis of readings, guest presentations and discussions; 2 out of 3 of his/her reflection/response papers eloquently link class material/discussion to his/her experience.

**Grade C:** A C student attends class regularly but rarely contributes to the class discussion by raising thoughtful questions, analyzing relevant issues; building on other's ideas and challenging assumptions/perspectives; half of his/her discussion questions reflect a synthesis of readings, guest presentations and discussions; 1 out of 3 of his/her reflection papers eloquently link class material/discussion to his/her experience.

**Grade D:** A D student attends class regularly but never contributes to the class discussion by raising thoughtful questions, analyzing relevant issues; building on other's ideas and challenging assumptions/perspectives; a quarter of his/her discussion questions reflect a synthesis of readings, guest presentations and discussions; none of his/her reflection papers eloquently link class material/discussion to his or her experience.

**Grade F:** An F student attends class irregularly and never contributes to the class discussion by raising thoughtful questions, analyzing relevant issues; building on other's ideas and challenging assumptions/perspectives; his/her discussion questions have no bearing on the readings, guest presentations and discussions; his/her reflection and response papers make no links to class material/ discussion to his or her experience.

#### Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>A</b>	4.00	94%-100%
<b>A-</b>	3.67	90%-93%
<b>B+</b>	3.33	87%-89%
<b>B</b>	3.00	84%-86%

Letter Grade	Points	Percent
B-	2.67	80%-83%
C+	2.33	77%-79%
C	2.00	74%-76%
C-	2.00	70%-73%
D	1.00	65% -69%
F	.00	Below 65 %

### View Grades

All assignments will be graded and handed over in class. You should, therefore, be able to tabulate your grades as we progress. However, midterm grades and final grades will be uploaded onto NYU Classes.

### Course Schedule

### Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1: <b><u>4 February 2019</u></b>	Getting started, course requirements, expectations, etc	Course syllabus	
Week 2: <b><u>11 February 2019</u></b>	Historical background 1: Integrating Africa into the global economy	M. Malowist, "The struggle of international trade and its implications for Africa", in B. A. Ogot, <i>Africa from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century</i> , Oxford, Heinemann, 1992, pp. 1 – 22  J.E. Inikori, "Africa in world history: the export slave trade from Africa and the emergence of the Atlantic economic order" in B. A. Ogot, <i>Africa from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup></i>	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		<p><i>century</i>, Oxford, Heinemann, 1992, pp. 74 – 112</p> <p>J.E. Inikori, “Reversal of fortune and socioeconomic development in the Atlantic world: A comparative examination of West Africa and the Americas, 1400 – 1850” in Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert Bates, Nathan Nunn and James Robinson, <i>Africa’s Development in Historical Perspective</i>, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2014, pp. 56 – 88.</p>	
<p>Week 3: <b><u>18 February 2019</u></b></p>	<p>Historical background 2: The aftermath of the Atlantic slave trade: Integrating Ghana into the global economic system</p>	<p>David Kimble: <i>A Political History of Ghana, The Rise of Gold Coast Nationalism, 1850 – 1928</i>, Oxford: Clarendon, 1963, pp. 1 - 60</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> assignment due</p>
<p>Week 4: <b><u>25 February 2019</u></b></p>	<p>Field tour of Danish slave plantation in Sesemi The class will not be held on <b>Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of February</b>. It will be held on <b>Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2019</b> in the form of field tour to an old Danish slave plantation in Sesemi</p>	<p>Y. Bredwa-Mensah, Ole Justesen &amp; Anne Mette Jorgensen, <i>Frederiksgave Plantation and Common Heritage Site</i>, (A National Museum of Denmark publication. Copies available in the Library of NYU, Accra) &amp; Yaw Bredwa-Mensah, “Archaeology of Slavery in West Africa”, <i>Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana</i>, New Series, No. 3, (1999), pp. 27-45</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Assignment due</p>
<p>Week 5: <b><u>4 March 2019</u></b></p>	<p>Cocoa in Ghana</p>	<p>A.B Holmes, <i>Economic and political organisations in the Gold Coast</i>, 1972 pp. 31 - 335</p>	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 6: <b><u>11 March 2019</u></b>	Mid-semester in-class open book examination.	The mid semester examination will be a 5-page reflection paper on T.M. Akuko's <i>One Man One Matchet</i> . It will be graded over 10. There is an online version of the book. Please download for use.	Recorded as 3 <sup>rd</sup> assignment
Week 7: <b><u>18 March 2019</u></b>	Spring break		
Week 8: <b><u>25 March 2019</u></b>	Field trip to cocoa processing factory in Accra/Tema		
Week 9: <b><u>1 April 2019</u></b>	The rise of Gold Mining in Ghana	Raymond Dumett: <i>El Dorado in West Africa: The gold-mining frontier, African labor, and colonial capitalism on the Gold Coast, 1975 – 1900</i> , Athens: Ohio University Press, 1998, pp. 84 – 294	4 <sup>th</sup> assignment due
Week 10: <b><u>8 April 2019</u></b>	Visit to Cocoa Research Institute, Tafo & Newmont Gold Akyem The class will not be held on <b>Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of April</b> . It will be held on Thursday & Friday, <b>the 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2019</b> in the form of field tour of Cocoa Research Institute in Tafo and the cocoa growing areas in the Eastern Region of Ghana & Newmont Gold Akyem		
Week 11: <b><u>15 April 2019</u></b>	Field tour to the Museum of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, to study the Akan Goldweights in the museum	T.F. Garrard, "Studies in Akan Goldweights (1), <i>Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana</i> , Vol. X111, No. 1, (June 1972), pp. 1-20 T.F. Garrard, "Studies in Akan Goldweights (2)" <i>Transactions</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> assignments due

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		<i>of the Historical Society of Ghana</i> , Vol. X111, no. 2, pp. 149-162	
Week 12: <b><u>22 April 2019</u></b>	Health and social issues of gold mining in Ghana	Raymond Dumett: “Disease and Mortality among Gold Miners of Ghana: Colonial Government and Mining Company Attitudes and Policies, 1900 – 1938”, <i>Social Science Medicine</i> , 37, 2, (1993): 213 – 232 (Available on JSTOR on-line)  Emmanuel Akyeampong & Samuel Agyei-Mensah: “Itinerant Gold Mines? Mobility, Sexuality and the Spread of Gonorrhoea and Syphilis in Twentieth Century Ghana”, Christine Oppong, M. Yaa P.A. Oppong and Irene K. Odotei, <i>Sex and Gender in an Era of AIDS, Ghana at the turn of the Millennium</i> , Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers, 2006, pp. 41 -58.	7 <sup>th</sup> assignment due
Week 13: <b><u>29 April 2019</u></b>	China in Ghana – the early period.	Donovan C. Chau, <i>Exploiting Africa: The Influence of Maoist China in Algeria, Ghana, and Tanzania</i> , Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2014, pp. 1-32 & pp. 72-101 & pp. 143-184	
Week 14: <b><u>6 May 2019</u></b>	Development and underdevelopment in Africa in the long duree	Walter Rodney, <i>How Europe Underdeveloped Africa</i> , Washington: Howard University Press, 1972 (or an available editions)	8 <sup>th</sup> assignment due
Week 15: <b><u>13 May 2019</u></b>	Economic development in post colonial West Africa: The case of Ghana	Movie on the Economic History of Ghana	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
<p>Week 16: <b><u>20 May 2019</u></b></p>	<p>End of semester exams</p>	<p>The end of semester exams will a 6-page type written reflective page on:</p> <p>Readings for the semester &amp; F. Cooper, “ Conflict and connectio Rethinking colonial African history”, <i>American Historical Review</i>, (1994), volume 99, no. 5 pp. 1516 – 45.</p> <p>F. Cooper, “Possibility and constraint: African independence in historical perspective”, <i>Journal of African History</i>, (2008), volume 49, 49 no. 2, pp. 167 – 196.</p> <p>Gareth Austin, “African Economic Development and Colonial Legacies”, <i>International Development Policy   Revue internationale de politique de développement</i>, (2010), no 1, pp 11- 32</p> <p>These items are available online on JSTOR. Please download and print them. Show how the papers speak to each other.</p>	

## Course Materials

### Required Textbooks & Materials

#### Available at the NYU Study Centre, Accra

- B.A. Ogot, *Africa from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century*, Oxford: Heinemann, 1992 (Available at the NYU Study Centre, Accra)
- Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert Bates, Nathan Nunn and James Robinson, *Africa’s Development in Historical Perspective*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014,
- David Kimble: *A Political History of Ghana, The Rise of Gold Coast Nationalism, 1850 – 1928*, Oxford: Clarendon, 1963

- Y. Bredwa Mensah, Ole Justesen & Anne Mette Jorgensen, *Frederiksgave Plantation and Common Heritage Site*, 2009
- A.B Holmes, *Economic and political organisations in the Gold Coast*, 1972
- T.M. Akuko's *One Man One Matchet*, London: Heinemann, 1964
- Raymond Dumett: *El Dorado in West Africa: The gold-mining frontier, African labor, and colonial capitalism on the Gold Coast, 1975 – 1900*, Athens: Ohio University Press, 1998
- T.F. Garrard, "Studies in Akan Goldweights (1)", *Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana*, Vol. X111, No. 1, (June 1972), pp. 1-20
- T.F. Garrard, "Studies in Akan Goldweights (2)" *Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana*, Vol. X111, no. 2, pp. 149-162
- Yaw Bredwa-Mensah, "Archaeology of Slavery in West Africa", *Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana*, New Series, No. 3, (1999), pp. 27-45
- Christine Oppong, M. Yaa P.A. Oppong and Irene K. Odotei, *Sex and Gender in an Era of AIDS, Ghana at the turn of the Millennium*, Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers, 2006
- Donovan C. Chau, *Exploiting Africa: The Influence of Maoist China in Algeria, Ghana, and Tanzania*, Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2014

#### Students should buy:

- Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Washington: Howard University Press, 1972 (or any available edition)

#### Resources

- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](http://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](http://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

#### Course Policies

##### Attendance and Tardiness

1. Students will be required to attend **all** lectures and participate in all field trips. Attendance at lectures is **NOT** optional and the roll will be taken at random and excuses will not be accepted for absence from lectures unless prior permission has been sought. Students who frequently absent themselves from lectures will not be eligible to take the end of semester examinations.
2. To ensure that students attend lectures, snap (not previously announced or programmed) tests would be conducted and answer sheets would be evidence of attendance in class.
3. There will be no **make-up** for an unexcused absence.

**Note: If for any reason you are unable to attend class, you are FIRST required to contact and inform the NYU Accra Manager of Student Services directly at the Academic Centre or email [mao9@nyu.edu](mailto:mao9@nyu.edu)**

### **Late Assignment**

1. Unexcused late submission of work of 1 week or less will be graded over 50% of the total score for the work.
2. Unexcused late submission of work of more than 1 week will not be graded.

### **Academic Honesty/Plagiarism & Annotation**

You have a series of written assignments due over the course of the semester. These assignments are designed to support our work in the classroom and must be handed in on time. It goes without saying that all written work must be original, any plagiarism will result in an “F” in the course. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. Please read [NYU’s statement on Academic integrity](#)

Both your response papers and exams must be written using the [Standard Chicago Manual Style \(Turabian\) citation](#). This form uses footnotes for references, not parenthesis. Citation format is quite specific—even if you believe that you know how to construct your citations, for this class, the turabian style is compulsory.

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**Note: Aspects of this syllabus could change in the course of the semester**