

University of Idaho

Study Abroad 2014

IS: 370 African Community, Culture, and Music (variable credits)



East Africa



West Africa

Only 12 spots available
Apply Soon...

Community members
welcome!

Program Overview

This African experience includes three weeks of travel, experiential learning, and academic instruction through (but not limited to): Savannah and Serengeti safaris, academic tours, socio-historic sites, cultural and village performances, ceremonies, festivities, drum and dance lessons, living with extended family, and countless cultural exchanges. *Please note: all academic majors are welcome!*

Eastern Portion

In this section of the experience participants will be largely "nomadic," experiencing the countries of Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania. Participants will explore both tourist and cultural sites, travel within airconditioned vehicles, and stay in hotels of at least a three star rating. Through this patchwork of experiences participants will begin to understand both the realities and misconceptions present within the common Western understanding of East Africa.

Western Portion

Located in Nungua, a Ghanaian fishing and coastal village, the world renowned Kusun Cultural Centre will be the homebase for this portion of the experience. While living as a local, participants will learn African drumming and dance with an emphasis on the traditions originating with the Ga community and ethnic group. Participants will also experience daily Ghanaian life, the Homowo and Odada agrarian festivals, and a visit to the Volta Region including a Traditional Kpeve Afrikania Worship Ceremony led by Hunor Gatukpe Dogah, High Priest for the Kpeve Village.

Program Dates

East Africa: May 20 - May 29, 2014

West Africa: May 29 - June 10, 2014

Application Deadline

Friday, December 6, 2013

Program Fees

\$4,910 Program Fee

(All accommodations, meals, cultural guides, ceremonies, field trips, excursions, entrance fees, academic instruction and training.)

Tuition, airfare, and personal expenses vary per participant

Other UI Fees

\$200 Non-refundable UI Application Fee



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Learn more about this program by contacting

Professor Barry Bilderback at bbilder@uidaho.edu OR Colton Oliphant at colton@uidaho.edu

Student Testimonials

Fiona C. Christenson, Psychology Major (2010 Trip):

"I thought I had a good idea of the knowledge I would gain from this trip, but was completely 'blown away' by how much more Ghana had to offer. Not only did I learn a great deal about Ghana's social structure, music, history, and culture, but in observing and interacting with my newfound Ghanaian friends, I learned a great deal about myself. My three-week adventure to Ghana provided me with an insight which can be applied to all of my studies at the university as well to the way I personally choose to live life."

Dara Wilson, Percussion, Performance Major (2010 Trip):

"I came out of the experience with so much more than I bargained for. I was affected tremendously by the Ghanaians connectivity, communal values, and importance of spirituality, and overall love for life. I discovered that the Ghana experience would forever change my outlook on life and ignite a passion to share this spirit with other people, especially through music."

Courtney Mustello, English Major (2011 Trip):

"Traveling to Ghana wasn't a vacation. It was an experience; an experience that had a major impact of the way I now see myself and others."

Megan Augustn, Sociology Major, (2012 Trip):

"Simply put, from my time in Ghana I now see and understand my own culture in a way I never would have otherwise."

About the Professor

Dr. Barry T. Bilderback is an assistant professor of music history and ethnomusicology with the University of Idaho's Lionel Hampton School of Music. Every summer since 2008, Dr. Bilderback has led an international study abroad course to Ghana, and this year he is including an East Africa component to the experience. His work in Africa is recognized by the National Association for Study Abroad and Study Abroad Faculty and Professionals. In May of this year, for his Africa-based educational accomplishments, Dr. Bilderback was granted Fulbright Specialists Program Scholar and Faculty Member status. This national, peer-reviewed, and merit-based position, which recognizes accomplishments in the areas of internationally-based scholarship and teaching, is made possible through the recognition and directives of the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board (FFSB), the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA), and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).



Dr. Bilderback's article for NAFSA's *International Educator* (March/April 2012), titled "Study Abroad: A Portal to Student Transformation," discusses his experiences in creating, leading, and sustaining the course. Also, based on their 2012 Ghanaian fieldwork, he and Kevin Woelfel (Lionel Hampton School of Music Director, 2006-20013) published the article "A Perspective on Coastal Ghana's Musical and Social Rhythms: One Is Not Where We Think It Is But Is Always Where It Should Be" for the *Journal of Pan African Studies* (Vol. 5 No. 8, December, 2012). This last May, he also served as keynote speaker for a conference on African indigenous music held in Uganda (Kyambogo University), and his article "Off the Beaten Path: A Case for Kpanlogo Music and Tradition" has recently been accepted for The Percussive Arts Society's *Percussive Notes*.

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International Programs

Phone: 208-885-7870
Fax: 208-885-2859
E-mail: colton@uidaho.edu

www.uidaho.edu/ipo/abroad

901 Paradise Creek Street
LLC Building #3 Ground Floor
P.O. Box 441520
Moscow, ID 83844-1250