large: Ghana National Theatre; small, left to right: Kim Gallon and Jim Peck in the Kakum National Park; the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum; carved gateway to the site of the Slave Market at Assin Manso.

History, Memory & Performance in Ghana

HST 280: Spring 2012

with a 12- to 15-day travel component, late May/early June

Dr. Kim Gallon
Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies

and

Dr. James Peck
Associate Professor of Theatre
History, Memory & Performance in Ghana

HST 280 investigates the relationship between history, memory, and performance in the West African nation of Ghana. It is a MILA course, so will culminate with a trip to Ghana. While at Muhlenberg, we will read about key periods of Ghana's history. Topics will include the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the “Scramble for Africa” and the early colonial era, and the achievements of Ghanaian Independence in the 1950s and '60s. We will also examine how such moments have been and continue to be performed in the public sphere. How do performing arts such as festivals, theatre, music, and dance construct public memory about the past? How is Ghana's history represented in such institutions of memory as national memorials, museums, and heritage sites? What underlying values and agendas inform the narratives and images found there? While in Ghana, we will hear lectures by leading Ghanaian scholars and artists, tour relevant historical sites, and attend performances in a variety of cultural locales.

Travel Agenda

The two-week trip to Ghana at the end of the course will include the following destinations of cultural and historical importance.

- Slave Forts at Elmina and Cape Coast
- Slave Market at Assin Manso
- Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum
- Fort Ussher Town
- Ghana National Museum
- Ghana National Theatre
- Prempeh II Museum
- Manhyia Palace Museum
- Kente manufacturing center in the village of Bonwire
- Adinkra printing village in Ntonso
- Kakum National Park
- Aburi Botanical Gardens

Destinations subject to change.

Cost

Approximately $1,600 to $2,100 plus airfare. Actual cost will be determined by the end of the December 2011. Price includes hostel accommodations, meals, admissions, and travel in Ghana.

Course Details

HST 280 is a one-credit course offered jointly by the History Department and the Theatre & Dance Department in Spring 2012, and taught by Kim Gallon and James Peck. It is available to all majors and fulfills the following requirements:

- the H perspective (pending approval)
- the D perspective (pending approval)
- History Major coursework
- Theatre Major coursework

For more information

Email kgallon@muhlenberg.edu or jimpeck@muhlenberg.edu