

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
GEOG 4040
GHANA FIELD SCHOOL**

The Ghana Field School studies how economy impacts health status in Ghana. Structured around on-site visits, readings and in-field instruction, this course focuses on the geography of health services and economic development in Ghana seeking to understand how underdevelopment impacts health services and health care. Challenges of resource exploitation and environmental pollution, the informal economic sector and economic development policies including structural adjustment are examined through visits to rural and urban markets, a gold mine, tourist facilities, industrial facilities. Visits to indigenous healers, rural clinics, a University Teaching Hospital and a Private Clinic helps to unravel the link between economy, culture, sanitation and health services. In dealing with economy and health care, our goal is to understand **WHO** gets **WHAT**, **WHERE** and **WHY**?

The *who* gets *what*, *where* and *why* in health care and economy in Ghana.

Course Text:

S. Aryeetey-Attoh (ed) 2003. *Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education Inc.

J. R. Oppong and E. D. Oppong. 2003. *Ghana*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers.

COURSE EVALUATION

In addition to attending class and reading the assigned readings, students will produce two term papers, one for each component of the course – Economic Geography and medical Geography. The breakdown of the final grade will be as follows:

Term Paper Medical Geography	50 points
Term Paper Economic Geography	50 points
Daily Journal	30 points
Participation	20 points
Total	150 points

TERM PAPER – Medical Geography

Take any one of Ghana's health problems and examine it carefully. Your paper must:

- a. Describe and explain the spatial and temporal variations of the problem and,
- b. Make policy recommendations. Your paper must cite evidence from several journal articles, etc. Illustrate the paper with photos taken during field study (LENGTH: At least 10-15 pages not including maps and photographs).

TERM PAPER – Economic Geography

Take any one of Ghana's economic problems and examine it carefully. *The topics covered in the reading list are an excellent source of paper titles*. Your paper must a. describe and explain the spatial and temporal variations of the problem and b. Make policy recommendations. Your paper must cite evidence from several journal articles, and be amply illustrated with photos and diagrams from field study. (LENGTH: At least 10-15 pages, not including maps and photographs).

SUGGESTED COURSE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

1. Introduction: Development and Underdevelopment: Delineation and characterization. Explanations for underdevelopment. Chapter 8
2. Geography of Health Services Chapter 12
 - Oppong, J. R. 1994. Spatial Accessibility to Health Care Facilities in Suhum District, Ghana. *Professional Geographer* 46(2):199-209.
 - Oppong, J. R. 1997. Obstacles to Acceptance of Location-Allocation Models in Health Care Planning in Sub-Saharan Africa. *East African Geographical Review* 19(2):1-10.
3. Structural Adjustment and Health (Visit Teaching Hospital, Herbalist and Nyaho Medical Center (Private Clinic).
 - Oppong, J. R. 2001. Structural Adjustment and the health Care System. In Konadu Agyeman (ed). *IMF and World Bank Sponsored Structural Adjustment Programs in Africa*, pp. 373-386.
 - Owusu, J. H. 1998. Current Convenience, Desperate Deforestation: Ghana's Adjustment program and the Forestry Sector. *Professional Geographer* 50(4):418-436.
 - Konadu-Agyemang, K. 1998. Structural Adjustment Programs and the Perpetuating of Poverty and Underdevelopment in Africa: Ghana's Experience Revisited. *Scandinavian Journal of Development Alternatives and Area Studies* 17(2&3):127-144.
 - Turshen, M. 1999. The Collapse of Public Health. *Privatizing Health Services in Africa*.
 - Loewenson, R. 1993. Structural Adjustment and Health Policy in Africa. *International Journal of Health Services* 23(4):717-30.
4. Environment, Development and Poverty (Visit Obuasi Gold Mines, Kakum National Forest).
 - Chapter 1-2
 - Owusu, J. H. 1998. Current Convenience, Desperate Deforestation: Ghana's Adjustment program and the Forestry Sector. *Professional Geographer* 50(4):418-436.
5. Women, Economic Development and the Informal Sector (Visit Makola Market and Rural Market).
 - Chapter 11
 - Stock, R. 1995. African Women and Development.
 - Ali Mazrui. The Economic Woman in Africa. *Finance and Development*. June 1992:42-43.
6. HIV-AIDS and Tuberculosis in Ghana.
 - Oppong, J. R. 1998. A Vulnerability Interpretation of the Geography of HIV-AIDS in Ghana, 1986-1995. *Professional Geographer* 50(4):437-48.
7. Traditional and Modern Medicine.

- Oppong, J. R. 1998. African Traditional Medicine: Dangerous, Anachronistic or Panacea? In Senyo-Adjibolosoo and B. Ofori-Amoah (eds) *Addressing Misconceptions about Africa's Development*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen 97-112.

8. Agriculture and Economic Development: Cocoa and food crop farming (Visit: Cocoa Research Institute, Tafo, and Cocoa Products Factory, Tema) Chapter 13.

9. Religion, Culture and Politics of Ghana (Visit Ghana Parliament).

- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6.

10. Manufacturing and Economic Development (Akosombo Dam, Volta Aluminum Company (VALCO), and Akosombo Textiles Ltd (ATL).

- Chapter 14.

11. Urbanization and Rural Development (Visit Accra, Kumasi, Cape Coast and Asankrangwa).

- Chapter 10 Urban Geography
- Chapter 9 Transport and Communication
- Konadu-Agyemang, K. 1990. Home Ownership in Urban West Africa: a mirage of Increasing proportions. *Ekistics* 342:205-213.
- Konadu-Agyemang, K. 1998. Housing Conditions and Spatial Organization in Accra 1950s-1990s. *Ghana Studies* 1:1-27.
- Konadu-Agyemang, K. 1991. Reflections on the Absence of Squatter Settlements in West African Cities: The Case of Kumasi, Ghana. *Urban Studies* 28(1):139-151.

12. Tourism and Economic Development (Visit Elmina and Cape Coast Slave Castles, Kakum National Park, and Labadi Pleasure Beach Hotel).