

Course Outline for African Drumming

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10 weeks ¼ Credit

This 10 week course will take students on a musical journey to West Africa. During the journey students will learn to play the djembe, West Africa's most popular drum.

Students will learn authentic rhythms from various countries. The rhythms will be the vehicle used to travel to and study each country. This course will combine drumming with geography, history, culture and current events of West Africa, as well as tracing African influences in modern American music. Students will also learn to compose and read rhythms using TUBS notation.

Unit 1: Djembe basics, overview of Africa and West Africa, West African polyrhythm

Unit 2: Nigeria, rhythm – Shiko, history of the djembe, mnemonic syllables, Babatunde Olatunji, polyrhythm

Unit 3: Sierra Leone, rhythm – Djole, masks, binary and ternary rhythms, notebook check

Unit 4: Liberia, rhythm – Fanga, 1st units test, Sound to Symbols

Unit 5: Ivory Coast, rhythm – Kuku, composing using TUBS

Unit 6: Mali, rhythm – Dansa, Timbuktu, small ensemble performances

Unit 7: Guinea, rhythm – Kassa, ensemble rhythm composition, notebook check

Unit 8: Senegal, rhythm – Aconcon

Unit 9: Ghana, rhythm – Kpanlogo

Unit 10: Review, final notebook check, 2nd units test and classroom performances

Instruments: We will be playing traditional African percussion instruments. Treat all instruments used for the class with care and respect.

Grading: As a ten week class, this course is graded pass/fail. Throughout the quarter you will be tested on the materials and rhythms that we study and learn in class. Successful completion of the class, passing, will be based on your active participation each class, written tests (2), journal entries and notebook checks, playing demonstrations, ensemble compositions and rhythm performance checks.

Student materials: You will need a notebook (a travelogue for your journey) for notes and journal entries. *course material subject to change Updated 9/20/17