MUS 143B/AFST 188B-African Music Ensemble
Fall 2010

Class Time: Friday 1–3
Room: FA 104, FA 27
Instructor: Dr.
Office: FA 116
Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2PM
Contact: Email: jburns@binghamton.edu ; Office Phone: 777-2595

Teaching Assistant:
Keaton Rood
Email: krood1@binghamton.edu
Office Hours: TBA

Required Texts:
Course pack is required, *Introductory Course for African Drumming*, available at the BU Bookstore.
Please bring this to class everyday.

Course Objectives:
This course will teach you the fundamentals of African drumming including timeline patterns, rhythmic awareness, group cohesion and percussion techniques using sticks and hands. The TA Keaton Rood will work with you all through the exercise book, *Introductory Course for African Drumming*, which will take you through a graduated series of lessons, each with a benchmark exercise that must be successfully completed before progressing to the next level. You will join the rehearsals of our performance ensemble, Nukporfe, playing whichever parts you have mastered. You will also learn to sing the songs that accompany the dances, using the songbook in the back of the textbook. This course should prepare you to join our performing ensemble in the future as a drummer.

Required Weekly Class Meetings: Each member will rehearse twice weekly:
Friday 1–3PM is the **dance rehearsal** time
Wed 6:30–8:30PM is the **drum and song rehearsal** time;
also open to community members

Required Performance Dates this term:
Friday October 8 at Ramada Hotel & Conference Center Binghamton 1-1:30PM
Thursday Nov. 18 in Casadesus Hall Binghamton University 1-2PM.
Friday Dec. 4 for World Aids Day at the Roberson Museum 6–9PM.

We may have the opportunity for other, optional performances, and these will be discussed and agreed upon in class.

Grading
Unlike other courses here at the University, the interdependence of the members of a dance-drumming ensemble requires a communal learning environment. When you take this class, you are committing yourself to support this environment and your fellow members by giving priority to the rehearsal times and performances. When you are absent or late, you affect the way that we rehearse or perform, because the essential role that you fulfill is not there—its like missing a leg or a hand.
Each member begins with the grade of ‘A’ for the semester representing 300 points. Points will be deducted for the following:

-100 Unexcused absence from a performance (Failing grade)
-60 Unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal
-20 Unexcused absence from a regular rehearsal.
-10 Lateness to a rehearsal
-10 Missing song book at rehearsal
-10 Inattention at/ disruption of rehearsal


**Use and Access to the Instruments**

The instruments are stored in **FA 36**. Students will be responsible for transport the required instruments to and from the storage room to the classroom for each meeting. In order to start the class on time, and not keep the instructors waiting, make sure you arrive early. We will also have to remove our shoes before entering the dance studio, and set up a mat on the dance floor to put the instruments on, as well as set up chairs to sit on. Everything must be taken down at the end of class, and the studio left as we found it. Please assure that the instruments, mat, and chairs are stored correctly.

Students will be allowed to check out instruments for practice outside of class. There is a key and sign out sheet located in the Music Department Office, FA 165. The instruments may be used in any of the practice rooms. **Instruments must never be taken out of the Music building**, without prior approval of Dr. Burns.

**Care and Maintenance of the Instruments**

The instruments we will be playing on have been specially purchased for the Music Department, and require extreme care in both playing and upkeep. In many cases these instruments are only available in Africa, and are therefore difficult to replace or repair. You will be given specific instructions for the care and maintenance of each instrument by the instructor or TA, and these rules must *always* be followed. If you are observed mishandling the instruments you will not be allowed to continue using them.

At this time students are not charged an access fee for the privilege of using the instruments in class and to practice on. In return, however, it is expected that students be ready to volunteer their time, outside of class, for the purpose of seasonal maintenance and care of the instruments.

**Important Dates:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4–12</td>
<td>Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah (No class)</td>
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<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Course Add/Drop Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 8</td>
<td><strong>Performance Ramada Hotel &amp; Conference Center Binghamton 1PM</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>Course Withdraw Deadline</td>
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<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td><strong>Performance in Casadesus Hall 1-2PM.</strong></td>
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<td>Nov. 24–29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break (No Class on Wednesday)</td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td><strong>Performance World Aids Day at the Roberson Museum 6–9PM.</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 10</td>
<td>Last day of class</td>
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