Course Title: **Teaching West African Drumming in the Classroom**

Course Prefix and Number: **IN5560.BH CRN: 40162**

Location: Beauty Hill Studio - 167 Beauty Hill Rd. Barrington, NH 03825

Course Instructor's Name: Randy Armstrong

Instructor's Office Location and Office Hours/Any Other Information for Contacting the Instructor:

<table>
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<th>P.O. Box 128</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dover, NH 03821</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:info@randyarmstrong.com">info@randyarmstrong.com</a></td>
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<td>Website: <a href="http://www.randyarmstrong.com">www.randyarmstrong.com</a></td>
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Catalog Description:

A hands-on course teaching the dynamic rhythms of West Africa and the African Diaspora for both music educators and classroom teachers. In this course the student will learn many complete rhythms using the drum language of master musician, Babatunde Olatunji as well as Mamady Keita and others. This course is designed to give teachers the tools to teach their students the power of West African drumming and compliment studies in the classroom and music programs. Transcriptions, support materials and drums will be provided.

Required Texts/Materials for the Course:

**The Beat of My Drum** – An Autobiography; Babatunde Olatunji / Dr. Robert Atkinson
2005: Temple University Press

Recommended:

**Global Music Series: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture / Thinking Musically by Bonnie C. Wade** and **Teaching Music Globally by Patricia Shehan Campbell**
2004: Oxford University Press, Inc.

This amazing series includes teaching activities; audio CDs and an extraordinary set of complimentary and individually packaged books with CD included on over 20 different global regions such as Bali, Middle East, Bulgaria, North and South India, Central Java, East and West Africa, Brazil, Ireland, Native American, China, Japan, Trinidad.

Note: A must for your school or personal library!

- Select a text from suggested reading list
**Major Topics Covered by the Course:**

The primary topic will focus on developing performance skills and methods for teaching West African drum rhythms in the classroom. Complete support patterns for djembe, djun-djun, bell and shakere will be taught by performing a variety traditional and non-traditional West African rhythms. Although singing and dancing are integral parts of West African music and culture, the course will concentrate on teaching drumming in the classroom for children, youth and adults.

**Performance-based Objectives (What is it that students will know or be able to do as a result of taking this course?)**

Students will be expected to:

1) Learn and "internalize" all parts of several West African rhythms
2) Demonstrate proficiency in West Africa drumming techniques
3) Memorize and perform the drum language of Babatunde Olatunji
4) Understand the methodology of teaching and learning West African rhythms

**Relationship of Course to the Conceptual Framework:**

1) **Experiential** - Students will experience hands-on participation in a West African style drumming ensemble
2) **Application** - Students will learn how to apply their drumming experience in the classroom
3) **Individual Mentoring** - Students will receive direct instruction and feedback on developing their drumming skills

**Content of Course Which Addresses Technological Competence:**

1) Students will learn to program a drum machine w/ traditional West African rhythms and be exposed to the influences of drumming and percussion in modern music and pop culture through electronic mediums
2) Students will learn maintenance of drums
3) Students will be instructed in the art of transcribing recorded music

**Content of Course Which Addresses Diversity Issues:**

Course content explores the influences of traditional African rhythms on music from around the world including: Jazz, Blues, Rock/Pop, World Fusion, Cuban, Brazilian and many diverse cultures.
Content of Course Which Addresses Special Needs Issues:
Course will address specific techniques for reaching and integrating children of all abilities, aptitudes and special needs

Performance-based Assessment/Activities for the Course (How can we make sure that the Performance-based Objectives from above have been accomplished?):
Students will demonstrate and perform:
1) 3 to 5 complete West African rhythms (all parts)
2) Lead the class ensemble
3) Demonstrate ability to teach a drumming techniques and rhythms

Course Schedule:
Dates: July 6, 7, 8, 9. 2011 – Time: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM Daily

Assignments:
Students will practice and perform a series of West African rhythms and hand drumming techniques. Each student will be required to demonstrate and conduct a rhythm in class.

Highly recommended instructional and reading materials:

Videos / DVDs:

PULSE: A Stomp Odyssey is a celebration of the global beat, an exploration of the sights and sounds of continents and cultures, guided by the internationally acclaimed performers of the sensational stage show STOMP. A Giant Screen Films in association with Yes / No Productions 2006 distributed by Well Go USA, Inc.
This is a MUST for any classroom and music program!

African Drumming; Babatunde Olatunji
1993: Interworld Music Associates distributed by Warner Bros. Publications Instructional video featuring the Gun, Go Do, Pa Ta drumming technique

African Beats: Kalani

Guinee: Les Rhythmes Du Mandeng DVD Volumes 1-3; Mamady Keita
One of the Best instructional DVD series ever !! featuring many rhythms from Mali and Guinee for full ensemble and all parts.. Multi-Lingual translations.
West African Djembe Drumming; Paulo Mattioli
1996: AfricanPercussion.com • 800-733-DRUM • 909-277-3442
Instructional video featuring versions of Lamba, Doundounba, Lindjian, Sedeba, Aconcon, KouKou, Mandjiani

I Giant Leap: produced, directed and composed by Duncan Bridgeman and Jamie Catto
2001: Palm Pictures Ltd. DVD & CD formats.
In the words of Bridgeman and Catto, “We traveled to 25 different locations in 20 different countries around the world to collaborate with some of the world’s most culturally significant musicians, thinkers, artists, authors, actors and scientists to explore the unity in diversity.”
Note: Mature Content. Parental and Teacher Discretion Advised!

Recordings:

OLATUNJI - Drums of Passion
1959: Columbia CK 8210

Babatunde Olatunji - Drums of Passion: The Beat
1989: RYKODISC RCD 10107

Babatunde Olatunji - Drums of Passion: Celebrate, Freedom, Justice and Peace
1993: Olatunji Music, Inc. 2109 Broadway, NY, NY 10023 (self-release)
Note: check internet for distributors of hard-to-find materials

Planet Drum; Mickey Hart
1991: RYKODISC
Companion CD to the books: Drumming on the Edge of Magic & Planet Drum

DRUM! with Geoff John
1991: Sounds True Recordings 1825 Pearl St. Boulder, CO 80302 / CD & Cassette
Instructional CD on how to play rhythms of Africa and Latin America: Afoxe, Sohko, Comparsa, Atsiagbekor, Mahi, Kpanlogo

Reading Materials:
Planet Drum; Mickey Hart & Fredric Lieberman
A book celebrating percussion and rhythm throughout the ages. College level. (Hard to Find)

African Rhythm and African Sensibility: John Miller Chernoff
1979: University of Chicago Press
Aesthetics and Social Action in African Musical Idioms. College level.

African Music- A People's Art: Francis Bebey
Illustrated introduction to traditional African Music. College level.
The Music of Africa; J.H. Kwabena Nketia
1974: W.W. Norton & Co. Inc.
An overview of music traditions of Africa with respect to their historical, cultural and social backgrounds. College level.

Musics of Many Cultures: An Introduction; Elizabeth May, Editor
1983: University of California Press, Berkeley, CA 94720
Introductory book on ethnomusicology with 19 musical cultures (including Ghana) surveyed with a companion CD. College level.

The Kingfisher Young People's Book of Music; Clive Wilson, Editor
1999: Kingfisher Publications
Concise survey and encyclopedia of world music, history, instruments and technology developed for young people with excellent pictures and music chronology. A classroom Gem!

Musical Instruments of the World; Ruth Midgley & Susan Sturrock, Editors
1976: Bantam Books / Diagram Group
A comprehensive illustrated encyclopedia of more than 4,000 instruments. A Great Classroom Resource!

Music:

Drums of Passion Songbook: The Songs of Babatunde Olatunji; Transcribed and Edited by Doug LeBow
1993: Olatunji Music, 2109 Broadway, Suite 477, NY, NY 10023
Songbook of 22 Olatunji songs and drumming transcriptions.
(Note: check the internet for a distributor or publisher – out of print)

African Percussion; Serge Blanc
1997: Distributed by Sher Music Co.
One of the best instructional books on djembe and ensemble performance published!! Includes history, technique, notation and CD. A must for your music library!

A Life for the Djembe – Traditional Rhythms of the Malinke: Mamady Keita
1999: ARUN-Verlag Publications distributed by African Rhythm Traders
(800)894-9149 – www.africanrhythmtraders.com
A must for all djembe and ensemble instructors and students. CD included.

Resources:
African Rhythm Traders – Drums, Books, DVDs & Supplies
(800)894-9149 – www.africanrhythmtraders.com
424 NE Broadway, Portland, OR 97232
Everything you need for Djembe & West African drumming supplies. Top Quality.

distributed by The Talman Company
Advanced books and companion CDs on instruction of a variety of drumming and music techniques.

Interstate Music Supply Co. - Drums & Percussion Catalog
(800)462-2263 / www.interstatemusic.com
P.O. Box 510865, 13819 W. National Ave.
New Berlin, WI 53151
Some of the best mail-order prices and drums anywhere. Full line of REMO drums.

Lark in the Morning - Musical Catalog
(707)964-4469 / www.larkinam.com
P.O. Box 1176, Mendocino, CA 95460
Great resource of world music instruments.

Manhattan Music Publications: Drummers Collective Series
CPP Media Group, 15800 N.W. 48th Ave., Miami, FL 33014
Excellent series of world drumming rhythms and techniques applied to drumset - Brazilian, West African & Afro-Cuban.

Goatskins.com – http://www.goatskins.com - Amazing resource for purchasing high quality djembes, djun djuns and accessories

The mission of Djembe Drums & Skins, Inc. is to provide high quality drums and skins at reasonable prices to all people interested in African hand drumming. The heart and soul of drumming is in me, and I want other people to have these drums at a reasonable price.

We have a source of hand carved Djembe drums and African goatskins from Ivory Coast and other countries of West Africa. I have been into making drums as a hobby for over 20 years and have had several drum projects that were fun to build. The drums from Africa have a sound that I cannot re-create. If you are interested in owning one of these quality drums call us 800-549-3966. Proprietor: Shorty Palmer.

All drums and skins are fully guaranteed and backed by my word.

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P.O. Box 151, Bridgewater, VT 05034-0151
Regional resource for purchasing drums and reheading/repairs.

Course Policies:
All students must attend all classes
**Special Instructions:**

Check Graduate Office the week of classes for directions to location.  
Please email or call instructor with your direct email and contact information prior to class.

**Other:**

Drums will be provided. Highly recommend that each student obtain a 12" djembe or ashiko drum either Remo brand or traditional style.  
Students may want to bring a cassette or digital recorder to record portions of the course for reference and practice outside class.