

Senegal

National Identity and the Arts

Experience the enormous contribution to African arts and culture made by Senegal, a country that has inspired three centuries of poets, novelists, and artists.

Coursework

National Identity and the Arts Seminar

AFRS 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted primarily in French with required readings, hands-on workshops, and relevant educational excursions. Students examine the prominent role played by the performing and visual arts in shaping Senegalese society and identity. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as the Université Cheikh Anta Diop, the Senegalese Ministry of Culture, the Media Centre of Dakar, the Village des Arts Professional Artists' Cooperative, and the Réseau Africain du Développement Intégré.

Seminar topics typically include:

Senegalese Identity

Role of Islam in Senegalese life; Senegalese history, from the slave trade to the present; gender, law, and civil society; national cultural policy from Senghor to the present; role of the *griot* in Senegalese society; the role of Saint Louis in Senegalese history and literature; Senegalese cinema and theater; educational system in Senegal; role of the crisis in the Casamance in recent Senegalese politics; microcredit and development; traditional West African music, rhythm, and storytelling.

Arts and Culture

Workshops in traditional and modern Senegalese dance and djembe. Choice of additional workshops in batik, ceramics, bronze sculpture, or glass painting. Musical training in traditional instruments such as the *kora*, *tama*, and *djembe*.

Educational Excursions

Students experience the country's rich cultural diversity through direct exposure to music, dance, traditions, and customs of different ethnic communities (26 in total). Rural stays in the Wolof town of Mouit and the town of Kedougou reveal similarities and differences among Senegal's different ethnic groups, and how tradition and modernity coexist side by side. The program includes extended field visits

to Saint-Louis, southeastern Senegal, and the Petite Côte, as well as visits to Gorée Island, the Grand Mosque of Touba, Keur Moussa Benedictine Monastery, and Bandia Game Park.

French in the Senegalese Context

FREN 2000–3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Introduces students to the rich and diverse Senegalese cultural and artistic production in French. Primarily focused on enhancing student's oral proficiency through emphasis on skills of interaction with local artists and cultural workers, and immersion into everyday life. Through the study of post-colonial texts, students also learn about Senegalese oral culture and traditions, nation building, and the dynamics of contemporary society.

Intensive Language Study: Wolof

WOLO 1000 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

Emphasis on beginning oral comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction. Language practice with host families during the homestays augments formal instruction.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours

Conducted primarily in English, this is a course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a field journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 hours

Conducted in Dakar or in another approved location appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** ethnomusicology and study of traditional instruments or popular music;

AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA



Credits 17

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base Dakar

Language Study French, Wolof

Homestay Dakar, 6 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestays Wolof village, 3–4 days; Kedougou, 3–4 days

Other Accommodations Guest houses, educational institutions, or small hotels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites Three recent semesters of college-level French or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework in French, as assessed by SIT.

role of dance in the ceremonies of the Serer; social meaning of traditional dress in modern Senegal; industrial and traditional fabric dyeing and design; *griots* (musicians, historians, the contrast between urban and rural cultures, royal advisors); Senegalese film; the work of the Sorano National Theater; the artists of Gorée Island; women and craft production.

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester.

Please visit www.sit.edu/SGR for details.