Course Syllabus

Intensive Language Study: Wolof

WOLO-1000 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Senegal: National Identity and the Arts

Course Description
The Intensive Language Study: Wolof course is designed to develop student’s capacity for meaningful interactions through the use of the Wolof language which effectively functions as a lingua franca in the country. Introductory spoken Wolof language classes aim to provide a communicative base from which to converse with homestay families, vendors, friends and neighbors. Emphasis is on Wolof speaking and comprehension via classroom and field instruction through studying fundamental linguistic features, as well as situational texts to promote facility in daily interactions.

Course Objectives
The Intensive Language Study: Wolof course encompasses 45 academic hours (3 credits) and its main objectives are as follows:

- To develop students’ ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write Wolof;
- To improve students’ oral proficiency with particular emphasis on face-to-face conversations in a number of informal and transactional settings, and to ask and answer various types of questions;
- To equip students with necessary vocabulary and expressions for rural and urban homestays; and
- To facilitate students’ immersion into Senegalese culture through building their capacity to speak Wolof.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students should have attained the ability to:

- Express basic oral competencies including: introducing oneself and others, asking and answering basic questions, greeting and leave-taking in a culturally appropriate manner, asking for directions, conducting basic market interactions, and talking about their environment and daily activities;
- Apply knowledge of grammar in expression of tense and negation in real language situations; and

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• Demonstrate increased proficiency in Wolof by two sublevels – i.e., if entry level is determined at “novice low”, students successfully completing the course should achieve “novice high”.

Course Requirements

Readings
You are responsible for any required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The readings will help you place the classes in their context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen your knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class. They are not necessarily tailor-made for each and every class. Textual materials for the Wolof course are largely drawn from the “Diallo et al” text on reserve in the SIT Dakar library:


PLEASE NOTE: COURSE CONTENTS, LECTURERS AND READINGS MAY BE MODIFIED AS NEEDED. SHOULD ANY CHANGE OF CLASS TOPICS OR LECTURERS BE NECESSARY, STUDENTS WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Intensive Language Study: Wolof Assignments
Student performance is evaluated by teachers at each class meeting. Lessons are planned and students regrouped according to learning pace and individual strengths and weaknesses. At the end of the semester, teachers will compose an evaluation for each student, taking into account both classroom performance, effort and the use of and improvement in language skills over the course of the class. Students will be evaluated on oral presentation, written assignments, and on the extent to which they make an effort to use Wolof both inside and outside the classroom. In addition, students will be given an oral exam to assess progress. The final semester grade is determined by the Academic Director based on a combination of the criteria above.

Homework assignments 15%
Quizzes 15%
Final exam 20%
Class participation 20%
Effort 20%
Use outside the class 10%

Grading Scale: The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>74-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Grading Criteria
An “A” grade for an assessment entails superior (not just “very good”) performance in terms of intonation, increased fluency, command of the course materials covered, attention to cultural norms regarding non-verbal communication, etc. Regarding participation, an “A’ grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the students’ participation will be monitored and taken into account.

*All written assignments should be typed. Texts sent by e-mail will not be accepted. Make sure you have a laptop or computer available and keep back up files so nothing gets accidentally lost or erased.

Program Calendar

Each lesson will be divided into five parts:
1. An overview of the lesson with defined objectives
2. Introduction of new vocabulary
3. Grammar instructions
4. Guided exercises and dialogue
5. Notes on culture relevant to lesson

Unit 1
INTRODUCTION
• Placement Examination
• Overview of subjects and texts to be covered during the program
GRAMMAR
• Wolof verb conjugation
• Declension of nouns
• Singular and plural forms of nouns
• Personal pronouns and possessives
• Feeling and motion verbs
SITUATIONS / TOPICS
• Review greetings and family
• Inquiring about somebody’s activities
• Inquiring about the time of day
• Inquiring about the date and day of the week
• Identifying parts of the body; diseases
DISCUSSION TOPICS
• The Senegalese Family

Unit 2
GRAMMAR
• Study of verbs in various tenses: Mën, Mel, Mës, Nekk, Am/Yor, Wute, Nuroo
• Questions with verbs above
• Imperative tense
SITUATIONS / TOPICS
• Find out what is on the menu
• Ordering food in a restaurant
• Food and dishes
• Discuss how you spent a weekend/ holiday

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Inquire about a favorite past time
Invitations
Directions
Asking about items in a supermarket or a marketplace

DISCUSSION TOPICS
Presentation of a text on traditional marriage in Senegal followed by discussion
Presentation and reading of Senegalese written tales and stories

Unit 3
GRAMMAR
- Pronoun Object
- Imperative Tense + Pronoun Object
- Future Tense
- Review of the Narrative Past
- Past tense with OON

SITUATIONS / TOPICS
- Discussing one’s studies
- Discussing one’s past
- Paying for a purchase
- Buying fabric
- Hygiene, Sanitation, and Health

DISCUSSION TOPICS
- Education in Senegal

READINGS
- Senegalese tales and stories

Unit 4
GRAMMAR
- Temporal / Hypothetique BU/SU
- Narrative pronoun + oo/ee/aa + Future

SITUATIONS / TOPICS
- Discussing the weather
- Discussing one’s work and projects
- Going to the tailor
- Identifying cloths – colors, describing patterns
- Making comparisons

DISCUSSION TOPICS
- The Senegalese caste system
- The Senegalese Tea Ceremony (Attaaaya)
- Wolof proverbs

READINGS
- Senegalese tales and stories

Prior to each excursion or village visit and ISP prep, specific rural language focuses and grammar are introduced into classroom activities for Wolof and French.

Self-guided Student Learning continues as follows:

Unit 5
ORAL PRESENTATION
- 15 minutes of oral presentation on subjects chosen by students

GRAMMAR

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• Temporal /Hypothetique BU/SU
• Past Participle
• Passive Constructions
• Relative pronoun
• Emphasis on the subject

SITUATIONS / TOPICS
• Senegalese family ceremonies
• Transportation
• Travelling
• Speaking about one's routine activities
• Making arrangements
• Expressions for Senegalese ceremonies

DISCUSSION TOPICS
• Senegalese music and cinema
• Travelling
• Viewing of a Wolof film with subsequent discussion

READINGS
• Senegalese tales and stories
• Text on travelling

Unit 6
GRAMMAR
• Impersonal construction

SITUATIONS / TOPICS
• Entertainment
• Inquiring about entertainment options
• Time
• Seasons

DISCUSSION
• Senegalese wrestling

READINGS
• Senegalese tales and stories
• Articles from the Wolof press on health problems

Unit 7
GRAMMAR
• Review of the grammatical and lexical material of the course

SITUATIONS / TOPICS
• Speaking about different events

FINAL EXAMINATION

Student Expectations

Class Participation
Participation in class refers to attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all academic lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

PLEASE NOTE: All classes leave ¼ of the scheduled time for the purpose of class discussion of the lecture and/or readings.

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Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process. Also, refer to the specific information available in the Student Handbook and the Program Dossier given to you at Orientation.

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