

Intensive Language Study: Wolof

WOLO-1000 (2 credits, 30 class hours)

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

Course Description

Introductory spoken Wolof language classes are designed to provide a communicative base from which to converse with homestay families, vendors, friends and neighbors. Emphasis is on Wolof speaking and comprehension through classroom and field instruction.

Course Objectives

- Develop students' ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write Wolof.
- Improve students' oral proficiency with particular emphasis on face-to-face conversations in a number of informal and transactional settings
- Improve students' abilities to ask and answer various types of questions.
- Equip students with necessary vocabulary and expressions for rural and urban homestays
- Present new grammatical structures as opportunities for genuine communication

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should have attained the following:

- The ability to introduce themselves and others, ask and answer basic questions, and talk about their environment and daily activities
- An understanding of how to use the past, present and future tenses
- A greater appreciation of the role of Wolof as the *lingua franca* in Senegalese society

Course Requirements

Readings

You are responsible for any required readings, and should be prepared to incorporate them into 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

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Course Syllabus*

knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class. They are not necessarily tailor-made for each and every class.

An Introduction to Beginning Wolof (revised edition) by Moutarou Diallo, Mame Bineta Fall, Keba Mane and Fatou Kandji, SIT Dakar: 2009.

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

Timely completion of all assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. All assignments are evaluated according to organization, analytical quality, depth of understanding, argumentation and presentation of evidence.

Evaluation by the Language Instructors includes:

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:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64	F

Grading Criteria

An "A" grade for an assignment entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency, and the provision of factual, numerical and/or historical evidence. In terms of Class Participation, an "A" grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in all Academic Seminar 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.

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**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 four parts (based on a 120-minute class):

1. An overview of the lesson with defined objectives (10 minutes)
2. Introduction of new vocabulary (20 minutes)
3. Grammar instructions (20 minutes)
4. Guided exercises and dialogue (50 minutes)
5. Notes on culture relevant to lesson (20 minutes)

Course Schedule:

Week 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

Week 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
- Inquire about a favorite past time

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- 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

Week 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

Week 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.

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Self-guided Student Learning continues as follows:

Week 5

ORAL PRESENTATION

- 15 minutes of oral presentation on subjects chosen by students

GRAMMAR

- 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

Week 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

Week 7

GRAMMAR

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- 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 Seminar lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior.

PLEASE NOTE: All classes leave 1/4 of the scheduled time for the purpose of class discussion of the lecture and/or readings.

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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