

# Dakar, Senegal (language and culture)

## Suffolk University–Dakar Campus

fall / spring / academic year



african studies / anthropology / development and planning / economics / education / environmental studies / french language / gender studies / history / internship literature / public health / senegalese studies / urban studies / wolof language



### program snapshot

- Choose from a variety of courses in African studies, development studies, anthropology, and sociology
- Live with a Senegalese family who provides strong cultural immersion
- Participate in African art, dance, and music; community service and an internship
- Visit Gorée Island, Toubab Dialaw, Saint Louis, and the Sine-Saloum region; learn in a rural stay with Peace Corps or NGO staff

### what you'll learn

The goals of the Language and Culture program are fourfold: to offer students the opportunity to live and study in a French-speaking West African country; to introduce students to Senegalese society and to such issues as education, women's roles, the impact of Islam, and development and globalization from a West African perspective; to enable students to develop and/or acquire language skills in French and Wolof; and to provide opportunities for cultural immersion through living with a Senegalese family and participating in a community service project.

**thoughts from abroad**

Dakar, Senegal's capital city, is an excellent place to be immersed in cultural diversity and historical legacy. In addition to its numerous museums, cultural centers, theaters, restaurants, and nightclubs, Dakar is famous for its lively intellectual life and rich socio-cultural landscape that draw from both Africa and the West. Dakar is also known for its vibrant civil society organizations, which have contributed greatly to Senegal's multiparty democratic political system. Yet a mere 15-minute ferry trip from downtown Dakar lies lovely Gorée Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site, infamous for its role in the enslavement of Africans and home to *La Maison des Esclaves*, a museum that provides a living memory of a despicable chapter in world history.

In keeping with the idea of global cultural exchange so precious to the poet Léopold Sédar Senghor, the country's first president and co-founder of the intellectual and literary movement known as Negritude, Senegal takes pride in its legendary reputation as the Country of *Téranga* (the Wolof word for hospitality). So welcome to the land of *Téranga* and enjoy the experience of a lifetime!

— Serigne Ndiaye, Resident Director

**About the Resident Director**

Dr. Serigne Ndiaye became the Resident Director in 2002. Born and raised in Senegal, Dr. Ndiaye completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in English and American Literature and Civilization at Université Cheikh Anta Diop, and his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at Emory University. His primary research and teaching areas include Francophone African and Caribbean literature and culture and post-colonial theory. Dr. Ndiaye has taught at both Emory University and SUNY-Albany and is quadrilingual in English, French, Serer, and Wolof.

**About Other CIEE Staff**

Victoria Fletcher, Assistant Resident Director, first came to Dakar in 1998 as a study abroad student. Since then, she has returned to the city to work in different capacities, including serving as the CIEE Program Assistant from 2006–2007. Prior to rejoining CIEE Dakar in 2010, Victoria worked for three years in Portland, Maine as the CIEE Enrollment Officer for Africa and the Middle East. Victoria brings to this role nearly six years of experience in northern and western Africa, including serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Morocco. She received her B.A. in Literature from Kalamazoo College and her M.A. in International Education from the School for International Training. Victoria's responsibilities include leadership of the CIEE Dakar summer program. Alain Badiane, Housing Coordinator, coordinates and maintains the home-stay program. He meets on a regular basis with students and with host families to discuss housing-related issues. Born and raised in Senegal, Alain has worked for many organizations, including the Baobab Center. Alain holds an Associate's Degree in French.

**about dakar**

The Republic of Senegal, which achieved independence in 1960 after more than a century of French colonial rule, is arguably one of the most democratic countries in West Africa. Senegal has a population of nearly twelve million, with two and a half million living in Dakar, the political and economic capital and one of West Africa's most important and vibrant cities. Although French is the country's official language and Wolof the predominant language, other languages are spoken by the country's multiethnic population, which is more than 90 percent Muslim.

**academics****Academic Program**

The CIEE Study Center in Dakar offers students the opportunity to live and study in a French-speaking West African country and to immerse themselves in two of Senegal's official languages: French and Wolof. Through a broad range of coursework in English and/or French, students are also able to engage in topics concerning Africa in general, and Senegal specifically. By doing so, participants gain a greater understanding of the issues and challenges facing Senegal today and learn firsthand about this multilingual society.

**Academic Culture**

Students will notice striking differences between their home educational system and the Senegalese model, which is based on the French system. While students in the U.S. are accustomed to a very structured system, the Senegalese method generally requires students to take greater initiative and responsibility in a less structured environment. Some American students could misperceive a course as having a light workload or few assignments, but students are expected to engage in a great deal of individual study and extensive reading outside of the classroom.

The Resident Director oversees all CIEE courses, which are taught in both English and French. Senegalese professors, most of whom also hold faculty appointments at Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), teach these courses. CIEE Study Center courses run for 12 weeks (two 2-hour sessions per week) for a total of 45 hours and include a broad range of subjects.

Classes are generally lecture-based, but CIEE teachers are encouraged to foster more interactive classroom dynamics. In addition to lectures and discussions, many classes involve student presentations, which may take up a greater part of the course schedule than students are accustomed to in the U.S. Courses are designed to offer opportunities

for students to draw a parallel between the theoretical information they receive in the classroom and the social and cultural experiences they have outside of class. Field trips and guest speakers supplement students' education and provide a practical orientation to their learning.

CIEE students have access to local institutions and organizations for research and special activities. These include the West African Research Center (WARC), the IFAN library at UCAD, and the Baobab Center.

**Nature of Classes**

CIEE classes are usually attended only by CIEE students.

**Language Environment**

As students gain proficiency in French and Wolof, resident staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. The more students participate, the more a community that contributes to French and Wolof language proficiency and understanding of Senegalese society develops.

**Grading System**

Final grades in CIEE courses are based on a combination of attendance, participation, papers, presentations, and a final paper or exam. For the internship, the final grade is based on participation and a final report. The Resident Director reports Senegalese numerical grades (0–20 scale) in U.S. letter grades using a conversion scale.

**where you'll study**

The CIEE Study Center in Dakar is operated in conjunction with Suffolk University-Dakar Campus. The CIEE Study Center office is located on campus, and language instruction and CIEE area studies courses take place there. CIEE students have access to the library, computer labs, and other facilities at Suffolk University-Dakar Campus, but should understand that they will study exclusively with other CIEE students.

## living

### Housing and Meals

Housing and meals are included in the program fee. All students live in a Senegalese home in a furnished room. Living with a Senegalese family enables students to have daily contact with French and/or Wolof languages and learn about family and social life in Senegal, which are crucial aspects of the culture. While French is the official language of the country, Wolof is most commonly spoken in the homes of CIEE host families, and CIEE students will realize the challenges of living in a multiethnic and multilingual society, as they learn to function in both languages.

Host families tend to view U.S. students as “adopted children” and expect them to eat meals and spend time with their family and friends. Homestay placements are determined on the basis of a preliminary questionnaire and confirmed on site in consultation with the program’s Housing Coordinator. It is important to keep in mind that the Senegalese live simply, and such amenities as washing machines and microwaves are not commonly available. Meals tend to be considerably less varied than in the U.S.—rice and fish are considered staple foods in Senegal. A bi-weekly meal stipend is given to students so that they may supplement and vary their diet.

Although some students are within a 10 to 15-minute walk from campus, others should expect to commute by bus or taxi on a daily basis. A transportation stipend is given to students living in the neighborhoods that are not within walking distance of campus.

Academic year students can stay with their host families during the break between semesters.

### Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Dakar before even leaving home—by

participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask any questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

The program begins with a one-week mandatory orientation held in Dakar. Sessions are devoted to personal safety, medical issues, and Senegalese customs and values, including family life and gender relations. During the orientation week, students also take a French placement test and have daily instruction in Wolof. In addition, a program of expanded orientation activities fosters integration by having students explore specific places or organizations in Dakar, in some cases with Senegalese students. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

### Internet

Computers with email access are available for students’ use free of charge at Suffolk University-Dakar Campus. Wireless Internet access is available on campus, so students may choose to bring their own laptops. Students also have access to the Internet at the numerous Internet cafés in Dakar.

## internship

Students may participate in a community service project or internship for credit, consisting of 60 hours of practical experience and a 30-hour seminar taught and coordinated by a CIEE-hired instructor. Final internship placements are determined on-site and are based on students’ academic or research interests, as well as their French language proficiency. Volunteer opportunities are available for those students who do not participate in the community service project for credit.

## engagement

### Language Peers

The Conversation Exchange Program pairs CIEE students with Francophone students from the Suffolk University-Dakar Campus. Students typically meet twice a week for the duration of the semester, conversing in French or Wolof during one session and in English during the other. The program not only assists students in developing their conversational abilities, but also helps them make friends with Senegalese students.

### Rural Stays

Weeklong visits to rural areas in Senegal are an essential component of the CIEE program in Dakar. Mid-semester, students travel in groups or individually, depending on their preference, and stay with either Peace Corps volunteers or local NGO staff working in the field. These visits provide CIEE students the opportunity to better understand the contrasts and connections between rural and urban realities.

During their visits, students are encouraged to observe thoughtfully, pose questions, and converse in the local language (whether Wolof or another national language). The rural stays allow students to identify key revenues and community resources, listen to the history of the village, and discover the role of and reactions to the volunteer or the NGO staff in the community. As part of the required Senegalese Society and Culture course, students are asked to submit a critical paper based on their rural visit experience.

Time and time again, CIEE students have cited the rural visit as the most profound and memorable experience during their semester abroad.

## culture

### Cultural Activities and Field Trips

Included in the program are day trips to historic Gorée Island, including the Slave House, Women’s Museum, and the Historical Museum; and to Touba Dialaw, a fishing village and artist’s colony. Occasionally, the program organizes excursions to Touba and other important religious centers. In previous semesters, CIEE has taken students on weekend trips to the mangroves of the Sine-Saloum region; Saint Louis, the former capital of French West Africa; and other parts of Senegal, where they experience rural life.

Depending upon students’ interests and course topics, additional trips and cultural activities in and around Dakar may be organized or subsidized by the program.

Students are free to join various activities on the Suffolk University-Dakar Campus. Soccer matches and basketball games are regularly held between CIEE and local students, and CIEE students can participate in other international events held on campus.

## costs

### CIEE Fees

Fall 2010: \$11,900  
Spring 2011: available 8/15/10  
Academic Year 2010–11: \$22,700

The CIEE fees for 2010–11 include tuition, housing, meals, optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, a supplemental food stipend, orientation, cultural activities, a week-long rural stay, membership to cultural and/or resource centers and the West African Research Center WARC library, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which includes insurance and other travel benefits.

### Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2010)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 2,300
Personal Expenses	\$ 1,900
Books and Supplies	\$ 300
Local Transportation	\$ 150
<b>Total Estimated Additional Costs</b>	<b>\$ 4,650</b>

Check our website for current fees.

## duration

**Fall**  
17 weeks: late August–mid-December

**Spring**  
17 weeks: mid-January–mid-May

**Academic Year**  
38 weeks: late August–mid-May

## eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 2 semesters of college-level French or equivalent



## coursework

### Program Requirements

Students take five courses each semester: three required and two elective courses. The three required courses constitute the CIEE core curriculum: Contemporary Senegalese Society and Culture (in French or English, depending on the results of a French language placement test completed upon arrival in Dakar), French language, and Wolof language. Students then choose two elective courses. Students may also take the Seminar on Living and Learning in addition to their course load of five courses.

### Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15–17 semester/22.5–25.5 quarter hours and for the academic year is 30–32 semester/45–48 quarter hours.

Contact hours are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course, unless otherwise indicated.

### Languages of Instruction

French, Wolof, English

### Faculty

All courses are taught by Senegalese faculty, many of whom hold faculty appointments at Université Cheikh Anta Diop.

## courses

### Required CIEE Core Course

#### AFST 3001 SGSM

##### Contemporary Senegalese Society and Culture (in English)

This course addresses a wide range of issues relevant to contemporary Senegalese society and culture. In addition to the use of novels and films, guest lecturers discuss the complex interactions between history, politics, culture, and identity in contemporary Senegal. Students are encouraged to reflect critically, but non-judgmentally, on problems they find in their daily interactions with Senegalese. Through close observation and analysis, students refine their understanding of Senegalese society and culture.

#### AFST 3003 SGSM

##### Contemporary Senegalese Society and Culture

(in French; Prerequisite: This section of the core course is open to students who place into Advanced French I or higher.)

This course addresses a wide range of issues relevant to contemporary Senegalese society and culture. In addition to the use of novels and films, guest lecturers discuss the complex interactions between history, politics, culture, and identity in contemporary Senegal. Students are encouraged to reflect critically, but non-judgmentally, on problems they find in their daily interactions with Senegalese. Through close observation and analysis, students refine their understanding of Senegalese society and culture.

#### CLST 3001 SGSM

##### Seminar on Living and Learning in Dakar

The Seminar on Living and Learning in Dakar is designed to improve students' intercultural communication and competence while studying abroad by considering how Senegalese are different from and similar to themselves and others. The course offers opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to develop insights and the skills necessary to interact effectively and appropriately, and to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural richness of Senegal. Contact hours: 30. Recommended credit: 2 semester/3 quarter hours. Instructor: Serigne Ndiaye, CIEE Resident Director

### Required CIEE Language Courses

French language instruction is intended to improve all areas of language learning and help students understand and interact with French speakers in Senegal and other Francophone countries. Communicative activities are based on real-life situations and authentic texts. Participants are placed in an appropriate language class based on a proficiency examination given at the beginning of the program. All levels include a phonetics component to improve pronunciation.

#### FREN 2001 SGSM

##### Intermediate French I

After a quick review of basic structures, students proceed to more advanced communicative acts, such as making comparisons; expressing opinions, wishes, preferences, regrets, and other emotions; and asking complex questions. Vocabulary instruction focuses on complex descriptions, lexical nuances, and common idiomatic expressions.

#### FREN 2002 SGSM

##### Intermediate French II

This course entails the study of complex verb tenses and structures through the use of authentic written texts, and analysis of conversations and interviews with French speakers. Emphasis is placed on accuracy, pronunciation, and fluency. Specialized vocabulary relevant to learners' interests with a focus on cross-cultural topics is developed.

#### FREN 3001 SGSM

##### Advanced French I

Discussions focus on different speech registers, professional and/or intellectual topics, texts, and concepts. Written and oral assignments may include research, essays, and formal presentations on specific topics related to cultural experiences and current events.

#### FREN 3002 SGSM

##### Advanced French II

This course focuses on analyzing different speech registers, writing on professional and/or intellectual topics, reading literary texts, and discussing issues relating to Senegalese culture and politics. Written and oral assignments include formal papers and presentations on specific topics.



[courses continued from previous page]

## WOLO 1001 SGSM

### Wolof Language for Beginners

The goal of this course is to provide students a basic functional knowledge of Wolof, so that they can comprehend and use the language in everyday situations. The focus is on cultural immersion through oral communication.

## CIEE Elective Courses

Fall and spring course offerings are subject to change. The French-taught elective courses are primarily reserved for students who test into Advanced French I or Advanced French II. However, students who place into Intermediate French II may take one content course in French. Students who test into Intermediate French I are not eligible for French-taught content courses.

## Fall and Spring

(in French)

## ECON 3001 SGSM

### Development Economics

This course analyzes development history, theories, inequalities, and particular obstacles concerning development in Africa. Students discuss current initiatives and issues in development, including structural adjustment policies, agricultural subsidies, free trade agreements, NEPAD, and the Millennium Account Challenge. *Instructor: Dr. Ahmat Mbaïasbe, School of Economics, UCAD*

## HIST 3003 SGSM/RELI 3001 SGSM

### History of Islam

This course presents the history of Islam from the 10th through the 21st Centuries, specifically emphasizing its evolution and development in Senegal. Students examine Islam's historical, philosophical, and theological development, and become familiar with the basic beliefs and practices of Islam. In addition, the course touches on Sufi brotherhoods, Koranic education, and Islam during the colonial era. This course may also include a field trip to the holy city of Touba. *Instructor: Dr. Abdoul Aziz Kébé, Department of Arabic, UCAD*

## INRE 3001 SGSM

### Crisis Management and International Law in Africa

This class examines international public law as applied in the management of crises in Africa. Students learn to define and understand the origins and effects of several major conflicts on the continent. They then assess, analyze, and examine resolution methods and mechanisms, including the role of international organizations. *Instructor: Dr. Moustapha Lo Diatta, School of Law, UCAD*

## INSH 3002 SGSM

### Community Service/Internship

The for-credit community service project or internship consists of a minimum of 60 hours of practical experience combined with a 30-hour seminar with several guest speakers. Participants keep a journal, write a final research report, and give a formal oral presentation. Specific internships are negotiated in conjunction with the individual student's academic or research interests and skills. Pre-approval must be obtained for participation from the Resident Director and the home institution Advisor prior to the start of the program. Contact hours: 90. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours. *Instructor: Aminata Dièye, Amnesty International*

## PUBH 3001 SGSM

### Public Health and Development in Senegal and Africa

This course introduces students to the major public health problems facing Senegal as a developing country. Particular emphasis is on analyzing the priorities, needs, and environmental factors that come into play in the development of programs and prevention strategies. Field excursions to various sites are organized to facilitate students' understanding of the issues discussed in class. *Instructor: Dr. Aldiouma Diallo, IRD*

## Fall

## AFST 3002 SGSM/LITT 3001 SGSM

### African Society through Contemporary Literature

(in English)

This course introduces students to Africa through a comparative analysis of diverse literary works from Francophone and Anglophone African countries. Works are examined in light of their treatment and representation of relevant issues and themes specific to Africa. *Instructor: Dr. Abdou Ngom, Department of English, UCAD*

## GEND 3101 SGSM

### Gender and Development in Senegal and Sub-Saharan Africa

(in English)

Governments, NGOs, and international agencies have documented the importance of gender dynamics in the development process. This course examines the vital role and contributions of women in this process. It focuses on the sociological, economic, and political challenges and constraints faced by women in their efforts to empower themselves and their communities. *Instructor: Ms. Ndèye Gamo Tounkara, Independent Consultant*

## HIST 3001 SGSM

### Topics in West African History: Colonization and Decolonization

(in French)

This overview of Senegal's colonial history covers such topics as the end of legitimate rule in Senegambia; the imbalance of political leadership in France; France and the Ancien Régime's economic system; the challenge to British pragmatism; and various concepts of modernity. *Instructor: Dr. Ibrahima Seck, Department of History, UCAD*

## Spring

## ANTH 3001 SGSM

### Social Anthropology: Explorations in African Cultures

(in French)

This course examines the intersection between traditional cultures and contemporary development in Africa and Senegal. Through studies in art, philosophy (especially the works of Cheikh Anta Diop), education, and religious and moral traditions, the course outlines these cultures and the distinguishing characteristics between different ethnicities and regions within Senegal. Students investigate changes and dilemmas posed by development, democracy, and globalization in Africa. *Instructor: Mr. Youssoupha Diop, Lycée Blaise Diagne*

## EDUC 3102 SGSM

### Education and Culture in Senegal

(in English)

This course provides an overview of the past and present Senegalese educational system to help students assess the adequacy of the system with respect to the nation's development goals. It also examines the links between language, education, and development in the context of a multicultural African country. Field trips include visits to literacy programs and schools in Dakar. *Instructor: Mr. Mouhamadou Lamine Kane, Independent Consultant*

## ENVI 3102 SGSM

### Environment and Development in Senegal and Sub-Saharan Africa

(in English)

This course looks at Senegal's diverse yet fragile environment, characterized by the urgent demand for water; the needs of an ever-increasing population; dramatic climatic changes and seasons; markedly irregular rainfall patterns and resulting environmental challenges; and assaults of extensive desertification. Field trips include visits to dumping sites, water treatment plants, polluted areas, and environmental projects in Cambérène, Mbeubeusse, Hann Bay, and other sites. *Instructor: Dr. Cheikh Mbow, Department of Environmental Sciences, UCAD*

## HIST 3002 SGSM

### Topics in West African History: Atlantic Slave Trade

(in English)

The course begins with an overview of the history of African societies prior to the arrival of the Europeans, and then looks at the consequences and impact of the slave trade on contemporary African society. This course may include trips to Gorée Island and St. Louis. *Instructor: Dr. Ibrahima Seck, Department of History, UCAD*

## WOLO 2001 SGSM

### Intermediate Wolof

(in English)

This course is a continuation from Wolof Language for Beginners and is intended for academic year students who wish to continue studying Wolof. The course is designed to increase students' ability to read, comprehend, speak, and write in Wolof. Students proceed to more advanced syntax and vocabulary, written essays, guided discussions, and class presentations on relevant culture topics. Classes promote a deeper understanding of the language and culture through music, media, and Wolof proverbs.