



MAYMESTER IN DAKAR, SENEGAL



FRENCH 309 - DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN

MAY 18 - JUNE 12, 2020

3 WEEKS IN DAKAR + 1 WEEK REMOTE

VOICES OF CHANGE: WRITERS, FILMMAKERS, AND ARTISTS OF CONTEMPORARY SENEGAL

What is the role of culture in articulating local and global issues? How do writers, artists, and filmmakers deploy their craft to critique and affect change on their social or political realities? What can we learn from these cultural practitioners about our own worlds, and our own voices? In this Maymester research course, we will go out in the field in Dakar, Senegal to meet with writers, artists, and cultural dignitaries, tour cultural sites and museums, and immerse ourselves in Dakarois life to answer these questions—and more.

Because this course means to be interdisciplinary and diverse, students will be encouraged to follow their own research interests throughout the various modules of the syllabus, yet all through the lens of culture and more specifically, literature. Students can pursue, among other topics: postcolonial politics; women's rights; education; social justice; health; disability; immigration. The curriculum is student-centered, and each student will be expected to develop his or her own path through the course material, culminating in an online multimedia research project or research paper.

DETAILED PROGRAM INFO

Course 4-Units; French major/minor or elective credit. No pre-req, but students will be assessed to verify adequate oral, reading, and written proficiency. Course is taught in French and students will be reading and conversing daily in French. Students will also learn some Wolof, the most widely-spoken national language of Senegal.

Course material is culled from readings, discussions, and most importantly, daily in-the-field research. Course culminates in a research paper or online multimedia research project compiled of text, audio and video files, and images.

Class Dates May 18 - June 5 in Dakar, Senegal + June 8 - 12 remote online work

Enrollment In Fall and early Spring semesters, students will meet with Dr. Van Dam individually to discuss his/her interest in the class, background, and personal research interests. Once French level is assessed, students may submit an application. Once course readiness is determined and student is accepted, students are given D-Clearance to register as early as late October. The class will meet as a group in Spring semester for a basic orientation and prep. Throughout Spring semester, Dr. Van Dam will help each student to develop and fine-tune an individualized research project.

Costs (est.) 4-Unit tuition: included in Spring load (up to 18 units; for 20 units, ask about funding options)
RT airfare to Dakar from LAX: \$1500 - \$2200
3-weeks lodging in Dakar at Hotel Nina: \$1050 (double-occupancy, breakfast included)
Extra expenses: \$600 (additional meals, transportation to interviews, souvenirs, etc)

Int'l Travel USC requires students to be safe and informed when traveling internationally. All information and required forms are posted on the course website, <https://sites.google.com/view/maymesterdakar/home>

For more information, please contact Julie Van Dam, Program Director at julie.vandam@usc.edu