



MAYMESTER IN DAKAR, SENEGAL



FRENCH 309 - DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN

MAY 16 – JUNE 10, 2022

3 WEEKS IN DAKAR + 1 WEEK ONLINE

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: social justice; women's rights; environmental justice; illness; mental health; disability; migration. 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. Pre-req is French 250 or a language evaluation with Dr. Van Dam. 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. Culminates in a traditional research paper or an online multimedia research project.

Class Dates May 15 – June 3 in Dakar, Senegal + June 6 – 10 online

Enrollment In Fall 2020, students will submit an interest form and will then meet with Dr. Van Dam individually to discuss their interest in the class, background, and personal research interests. Students will then submit an official application (through Terra Dotta), due December 10, 2021 at the very latest. Students will be informed of their acceptance by December 20. The class will meet as a group in early 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 unit-semester, ask about funding options)
RT airfare to Dakar from LAX: \$1500 - \$2200
3-weeks lodging in Dakar at [Hotel Dioloff](#): \$1200-1400 (double-occupancy, breakfast included)
Add'l expenses: \$600-800 (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
Dr. Julie Van Dam, Program Director,
julie.vandam@usc.edu

Scan QR code for access to
course website and Interest
Form

