French Conversation

COURSE DESIGNATOR: N/A
NUMBER OF CREDITS: N/A
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French
CONTACT HOURS: 14 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed for students who have already taken intermediate level courses of French and now desire to deepen their knowledge of the language while living in a French speaking country, Senegal, through language instruction and interaction with native speakers. It consists of language exposure in class and outside the class. The core components of language learning, that is, listening, speaking, reading and writing will be covered. All the materials will be context-based as students are learning the language in Senegal. Language and culture are therefore intertwined in this course.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Mamara Seck
Email: mamarseck@gmail.com

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course aims at reinforcing students’ listening, speaking, reading, and writing competences.

At the end of this class students will be able to:
• Listen to and comprehend the news on the radio and television
• Speak French properly in various settings
• Read and comprehend French material
• Write about various topics pertaining to Senegalese society and culture

METHODOLOGY
Students will be exposed to French grammar in context and advanced writing and conversation training through contemporary texts and a variety of media.

REQUIRED READINGS/ MATERIALS
Journaux: Le Soleil, l'Observateur, et Sud Quotidien.
Emissions de télévision: RTS et TFM
Romans: Soudjata Keita ou l'Epopée Mandingue de Djibril Tamsir Niane and L'enfant Noir de Laye Camara,
Film: Xala de Ousmane Sembene
GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.</td>
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SUMMARY OF HOW GRADES ARE WEIGHTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework and assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall grade</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

You will be given an assignment every class meeting to be turned in the next meeting. Failure to turn in one’s assignment will result in lowering one’s grade.

**Attendance and Participation:** Students are expected to attend every single class and actively participate in all classroom discussions.

**Midterm Exam:** There will be a midterm exam that covers half of the program. The midterm has both a written and oral parts.

**Final Exam:** There will be a final exam that covers the whole program. The final exam also has both a written and oral parts.
## COURSE CONTENT

### WEEK 1:
- **Se présenter soi-même et présenter autrui**
- **Grammaire**: Les pronoms personnels, possessifs et démonstratifs
- **Lecture**: *Soundjata ou l'Epopée Mandingue* de Djibril Tamsir Niane

### WEEK 2:
- **Deuxième semaine**: la grammaire du texte français
- **Grammaire**: les connecteurs logiques en français
- **Lecture**: *L'Enfant Noir* de Laye Camara

### WEEK 3:
- **Décrire son environnement immédiat** (lieu d'habitation, de travail, quartier, ville, village, etc.)
- **Grammaire**: révision du présent de l'indicatif des verbes irréguliers
- **Lecture**: *L'enfant Noir* de Camara Laye

### WEEK 4:
- **Décrire sa société et ses valeurs**
- **Grammaires**: les adjectifs qualificatifs et les substantifs
- **Film**: *Xala* de Sembene Ousmane
- **Examen à mi parcours**

### WEEK 5:
- **Exprimer son opinion, sa volonté, et ses convictions en français**
- **Grammaire**: les verbes de volonté, de conviction, et d'opinion
- **Lecture**: Extraits de *L'Enfant Noir* de Camara Laye et de *Soundjata ou l'Epopée Mandingue* de Djibril Tamsir Niane

### WEEK 6:
- **Raconter un événement passé**
- **Grammaire**: la narration en français
- **Lecture**: Extraits de *Soundjata ou l'Epopée Mandingue* de Djibril Tamsir Niane
WEEK 7:

Décrire un événement social ou une cérémonie familiale
Grammaire : décrire un événement récent
Lecture : Reportages sur la tabaski ou Eid al-Adha au Sénégal dans les journaux sénégalais
Examen final

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the onsite syllabus for specific class requirements.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.