

# Advance Language through Current Events

**COURSE DESIGNATOR:** SNGL 3201

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** French

**NUMBER OF CREDITS:** 4

**CONTACT HOURS:** 60 hours

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students who have already taken advanced 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.

Students enrolled in the August or Winter Break session will have the same topics in a condensed timeframe

This course provides exposure to the diverse and complex identities of African cultures, utilizing French language as the basis for communication and reflection. Participants will engage with the critical grammatical structures of the subjunctive, verb tenses, idiomatic phrases, and particulars of Senegalese French expression. Focus will also be given to the many nuances of Senegalese culture, family structures, spiritual identities, and the values that form the foundation of Senegalese society.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The activities of the course will allow students to strengthen their linguistic capabilities and deepen their cultural understanding including their lexical capacity, grammatical and socio-cultural knowledge, and the important interplay of these skills.

Participants will develop complex insight into the socio-cultural dynamics that exist in Senegal. They will also strengthen their linguistic confidence and, thereby, confidence in themselves.

## METHODOLOGY

Students will engage in discussions, essay writing, homework projects and utilize both the classroom environment and non-traditional learning locations. Attention will be given both to written and oral French skill development in a variety of linguistic contexts.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

SNGL or FREN 3016

## REQUIRED READINGS/ MATERIALS

Current texts (newspaper articles, journals, short stories) as well as television broadcasts and live venues will be utilized.

## GRADING

Grading Rubric		
A	93-100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	
D	60-66	
F	0-59	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.

## SUMMARY OF HOW GRADES ARE WEIGHTED

Written arguments	65%
Oral presentations	25%
Class participation	10%
Grammar quizzes	10%
<b>Overall grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

### PENALTIES FOR WORK SUBMITTED LATE

Assignments received after the due date will be reduced by five percent (5%) of the possible grade for the piece of work being assessed per day, up to seven (7) days after the due date. Work submitted more than seven (7) days after the due date will not be marked, unless arrangements have been made prior to the due date for an extension.

### CLASS PARTICIPATION

Your participation mark is based on your preparation for class and your input into group discussion in all classes (excluding the class of your presentation—for which you will get a separate mark). You will need to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the set material for each week. Participation in class discussion will be marked on the constructiveness of your input to the class discussion and debate.

## COURSE CONTENT

### SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION

- Assessment of linguistic skills
- Identification of linguistic needs and goals

### SESSION 2: SOCIO-POLITICAL AND CULTURAL REALITIES FROM 1968 TO THE PRESENT

- Exchange with Senegalese students regarding a film from Sembene Ousmane (comparative study of the organization of space, the architecture of green spaces, mutations of the status of women in Senegal, role of oral narrators, strengths and weaknesses of the Senegalese administrative structures/survey of the values and challenges to communal life in Senegal, current family values and dynamics)

### SESSION 3: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FRENCH AND SENEGALESE IDENTITIES AND SYSTEMS

- The subjunctive tense
- Review of numbers and geometric forms

### SESSION 4: BELIEF AND TRADITIONS; ORTHOGRAPHY AND ACCENTS

- Posing questions
- Creating logical connections in expression Croyances et traditions

### SESSION 5: ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN SENEGAL ORAL COMPREHENSION

- Film on habits and waste/pollution and questions for debate
- Logical connections in communications
- The conditional tense
- Reading on family/domestic life

### SESSION 6: SENEGAL AND ITS STATISTICS

- Analysis, critical evaluation and discussion of populations and socio-economic factors

- Oral comprehension activities

### SESSION 7: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

- Themes include: traditional medicine, tradition in marriage ceremonies, parks in Senegal, eco-villages, urban planning, lottery in Senegal, Senegal airport

### SESSION 8: TRANSPORTATION IN SENEGAL

- Correction of homework on domestic life
- Comprehension on text about family life
- Text comprehension on migrations
- Relative pronouns and interrogative pronouns
- Imperfect tense

### SESSION 9: WALKING TOUR OF UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

- Guided tour of campus social and pedagogical environment (Cheikh Anta Diop University)
- Visits student buildings, liberal arts building, central library, botanical garden, return to WARC

### SESSION 10: SENEGALESE HOSPITALITY AND EXPRESSION IN LANGUAGE

- Listening text on hospitality
- The passé composé
- The use of d'EN/Y and activities

### SESSION 11: MANNERISM OF LANGUAGE

- Affective terms
- Changing word forms
- Francophone songs
- Simple past tense

### SESSION 12: ANALYSIS OF WRITTEN TEXT

- Analysis of written text
- Debate forms in language
- Reading and comprehension
- Debate: rights of women in the US
- Passive voice

### SESSION 13: REVIEW OF VERB TENSES

- Agreement of time and verb tenses
- Review of modes of time and tenses

### SESSION 14: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

- Possible themes: the universities in Senegal, Sengalese cinema, cultural traditions in Senegal, monuments and the African Renaissance. Senegal and the world soccer match of 2002
- Social and home conditions in Senegal

### SESSION 15: SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN SENEGAL

- Film by Sembene Ousmane
- Discussion of film with Senegalese students

### SESSION 16: FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES IN SENEGAL

- Charades game
- Card game
- Charades
- Other activities, as suggested by the students

### SESSION 17: HOMEWORK FINAL WRITTEN EXAM

- Homework
- Final written exam

### SESSION 18: CORRECTION AND DEBATE AMONG STUDENTS ON VARIOUS THEMES

- Correction of final written assignment
- Discussion of diverse topics chosen by the students Correction et débats à bâtons rompus

## SESSION 19: FAREWELL

- Course evaluation
- Commentary on course experience

### 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.