

## **West African Politics, Culture and History**

**Dakar, Senegal: June 23 to July 25, 2008**

**3 Indiana University credits - ANTH E 400 or HIST E 338 or REL R300**

**4 University of Oregon credits – INTL 407/507**

**Professor Dennis Galvan**

This course introduces students to the history, culture and politics of West Africa, with a special emphasis on Senegal. It offers an introduction to colonialism and its transformations, the importance of Islam as religious, social and political force in the region, the challenges and opportunities of postcolonial development, questions of gender, caste, national cultural integration, and democratisation. The survey format of the class is designed to provide students a comprehensive introduction to the historical origins and contemporary manifestations of major political, social, economic, and cultural trends in the region. The course often relies on an ethnographic or cultural studies approach to understand the social foundations and grass-roots dynamics that undergird major issues in Senegal and the region.

The course will be taught in seminar format, requiring everyone's active participation. Guest lectures by Senegalese scholars and excursions will complement the assigned readings and allow students to bring them into dialogue with local perspectives. In addition, students are expected to learn experientially by immersing themselves in Senegalese society and culture. To deepen experiential learning, the course also includes excursions to Gorée Island, the Serer village of Toucar, the Muslim spiritual centers of Tivaouane and Touba, and to Saint-Louis and the Senegal River Valley.

### Grading

The course grade will be based on the following components:

- Extent and quality of class participation – 30%
- A 2-3 page written reflection / response synthesizing and commenting on two guest lectures and related readings – 20%
- A 2-3 page written commentary based on a news item in one of the Dakar papers (e.g. *Le Soleil*, *Sud Quotidien*, *Wal Fajri*) and discussion with a Senegalese student – 20%
- Oral presentation on a topic of interest that entails conversations or interviews with three to five persons – 30%

Required Readings: Articles and book chapters on course web page,  
<http://uoregon.edu/%7edgalvan/senegal08>.

## Schedule of Readings, Guest Lectures and Excursions

### Week 1, June 23-27

Mon, 23 June

Seminar Overview & Introduction

Readings:

1. Gellar, Sheldon, 2005, Democracy in Sénégal: Tocquevillian Analytics in Africa, chapters 2&3
2. Fons, T.T. 2000. Goorgoorlu - Les Annees du HOP, 3-10 and 11-20.

AFTERNOON: Discovering Dakar with Senegalese Counterparts

Tue, 24 June

Guest lecture: Professor Boubacar Barry (UCAD), "Senegambia: Past, Present, and Future"

Readings:

1. Boahen, Adu. 1986. "The Trans-Saharan Trade" (pp. 1-10) and "West Africa and Europe: Early Colonialism" (pp. 102-110). In Topics in West African History by Adu Boahen.
2. Barry, Boubacar. 1998. Senegambia and the Atlantic Slave Trade. (Excerpts)

Wed, 25 June

Visit to Gorée Island with Guide Doudou Gaye

Thu, 26 June

Guest lecture: Ibrahima Seck (UCAD), "The Colonial Experience in French West Africa"

Readings:

- Boahen, Adu. 1986. "West Africa and Europe: Mid-Late Colonialism & Independence" (pp. 111-148). In Topics in West African History by Adu Boahen.

Fri, 27 June

Discussion: Modernity and Social Change in Senegal

Readings:

- Francis B. Nyamnjoh, "Fishing in Troubled Waters: Disquettes and Thiofs in Dakar," Africa, 75:3, 2005, pp. 295-324

### Week 2, June 30 – July 4

Mon, 30 June

Discussion: Islam and Society

Reading:

1. Brenner, Louis. 2001. "Knowledge and Power in Pre-Colonial Muslim Societies." In Controlling Knowledge: Religion, Power and Schooling in a West African Muslim Society by Louis Brenner, pp. 17-38.
2. Villalón, Leonardo A. 2004. "Islamism in West Africa: Senegal," African Studies Review, Sept 47:2, 61-71.

Tue, July 1

Guest lecture: Guedj Fall (FASTEF/UCAD), "Literature and the Construction of the Nation-State: Personal Reflections"

Reading:

Three poems by Cheikh Aliou Ndao: Dakar; Mopti; Aguibou Alpha Maki Tâl

Wed, July 2

Guest lecture: Professor Djibril Samb (FLSH/UCAD), "Interpreting Dreams in Senegambian Societies"

Readings:

1. Vandewelele, Michel. 1981. "Wolof Adolescents' Dreams," *Journal of Psychology*, 109:1, p3-10.
2. Optional: Samb, Djibril. 1998. L'interpretation des rêves dans la région senegambienne," excerpts.

Thu, July 3

Guest Lecture: Professor Penda Mbow (FLSH/UCAD), "Women, Islam and Religion in Senegambian Societies"

Readings:

1. Mbow, Penda. 2006. "The Secular State and Citizenship in Muslim Countries: Bringing Africa into the Debate," *WLUML Dossier*, pp 53-62
2. Abdullahi Ahmed An-Naim, "Secularism from an Islamic Perspective," *WLUML Dossier*, pp 5-21.

Fri, July 4

Discussion: Senegal, Development and Popular Culture

Readings:

1. McLaughlin, Fiona. 1997. "Islam and Popular Music in Senegal: The Emergence of a 'New Tradition'." *Africa* 67(4): 560-581.
2. Werner, Jean-François. 2006. "How Women Are Using Television to Domesticate Globalization: A Case Study on the Reception and Consumption of Telenovelas in Senegal." *Visual Anthropology*, 19:5, pp 443-472.

### **Week 3, July 7-11**

Mon, 7 July

Guest Lecture: Khadidiatou Tall Thiam (GEEP/UCAD), "Population Health and HIV/AIDS in Africa"

Readings:

1. Hanson, Stefan, 2005. "Is HIV control in sub-Saharan Africa losing focus?", *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health* 33(3),pp.233-235
2. Homaifar, Nazaneen and Suzan Zuljani Wasik. 2005. "Interviews with Senegalese Commercial Sex Trade Workers and Implications for Social Programming," *Health Care for Women international* 26:2, pp.118-24.

Tue, 8 July

Guest lecture: Molly Melching (TOSTAN), "Promoting Human Rights through Social mobilisation against Female Genital Cutting in Senegal"

Readings:

Easton, Peter, et al. 2003. "Social policy from the bottom up: abandoning FGC in sub-Saharan Africa, *Development in Practice*," November, Vol. 13 Issue 5, p445, 14

Wed, 9 July

Excursion to Touba

Readings:

Babou, Cheikh Anta. 2002. "Brotherhood Solidarity, Education and Migration: The Role of the Dahiras among the Murid Muslim Community of New York." *African Affairs* 101, pp. 151-170.

Thu, 10 July

Guest lecture: Professor Abdoul Sow (FASTEF/UCAD), "Youth and Education in Senegal: Current Issues"

Readings:

1. Diouf, Mamadou, 1996, "Urban Youth and Senegalese Politics: Dakar 1988-1994" in *Cities and Citizenship*, James Holston, ed. pp.42-66
2. Optional: Havard, Jean François. 2001. "Ethos "bul fale" et nouvelles figures de la réussite au Sénégal," *Politique Africaine*, Juin 1982.

Fri, 11 July

Discussion Agrarian Change, "Modernization," and Local Response in Rural Senegal

Readings:

Galvan, Dennis. 2007. "The Social Reproduction of Community-Based Development: Syncretism and Sustainability in a Senegalese Farmer's Association," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 45:1.

Sat-Sun, 12-13 July: Excursion to Village of Toucar

#### **Week 4, July 14-19**

Mon, 14 July

Guest Lecture: Professor Amadou Mamadou Camara, "Development in Senegal: Problems and Prospects"

Readings:

1. Boone, Catherine. 2003. *Political Topographies of the African State*. Chapter 3, pp. 43-45 & pp. 94-104 (Casamance) and chapter 5, pp. 240-243 & pp. 282-314 (Senegal River Valley)
2. O'Bannon, Brett. 2006. "Receiving an 'Empty Envelope': Governance Reforms and the Management of Farmer-Herder Conflict in Senegal." *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 40:1.

Tue-Sat, 15-19 July: Excursion to Tivaouane, Senegal River Valley, and Saint Louis

Tue, 15 July: Tivaouane, St-Louis, Richard Toll & Gaya - Guide

Wed, 16 July: Gaya: Discovering rural activities

Thu, 17 July: Saint-Louis - Tour & Lecture

Guest lecture by Louis Camara, Poet and Writer, CRDS- IFAN-UCAD "Literature,

Colonisation and Modernity in West African Societies: The Case of Saint-Louis of Senegal”

Fri, 18 July: Saint-Louis Tour

Sat, 19 July: Saint-Louis & Dakar

Sun, 20 July, EVENING: Film screening and discussion: Guelwaar by Sembene Ousmane

### **Week 5, July 20-25**

Mon, 21 July

Guest lecture: Thierno Ndiaye, Actor & film maker (played title role in Guelwaar), “Senegalese Film and Culture”

Readings:

1. Higgins, Ellie. 2002. “Urban Apprenticeships and Senegalese Narratives of Development: Mansour Sora Wade's Picc Mi and Djibril Diop Mambety's La petite vendeuse de Soleil,” *Research in African Literatures*, 33:3, pp54-68.
2. Optional: Perry, Donna L. 2005. “Wolof Women, Economic Liberalization, and the Crisis of Masculinity in Rural Sénégal,” *Ethnology*, 44:3, pp.207-226.

Tue, 22 July

Guest Lecture: Mame Less Camara (Director, Radio Ocean), "Senegal: Democratic Evolution and Media Development"

Readings:

1. Gellar, Sheldon. 2005. *Democracy in Sénégal: Tocquevillian Analytics in Africa*, chapter 6.
2. Yayoba, Abou. 2000. “Senegal: Oxy-Jeunes is in the air!” *UNESCO Courier*, 53:2, p25-27.

Wed, 23 July

Guest Lecture by Professor ElHadj Mbodj (LAW/UCAD). "Conflicts Resolution in Africa - Democratic Republic of Congo Case"

Readings:

- Daley, Patrice. 2006. "Challenges to Peace: Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region of Africa," *Third World Quarterly*, 27:2, p303-319.

Thu, 24 July: Student Presentations & Closure

Fri, 25 July: Student Presentations & Closure