

Wolof is spoken in Senegal, France, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Mauritania

ABOUT SENEGAL

Senegal is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, Mauritania to the north, Mali to the east, and Guinea and Guinea-Bissau to the south. Internally it almost completely surrounds the Gambia.

Dakar, the capital city of Senegal, is located at the westernmost tip of the country on the Cap-Vert peninsula. During the 17th and 18th centuries, numerous trading posts, belonging to various colonial empires, were established along the coast. The town of St. Louis became the capital of French West Africa before Dakar replaced it in 1902. Dakar became Senegal's capital in 1960 at the time of independence from France.

For more information

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WOLOF

Boston University

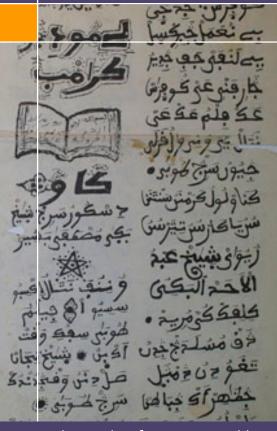


Image above taken from century-old manuscript in the African Ajami Library collection in Mugar Library.

MUSIC & CULTURE

Senegal is justly famous worldwide for its musical heritage, due to the popularity of *mbalax*. It has been popularized by Youssou N'Dour and others. Sabar drumming is especially enjoyable. Another instrument is the tama. Internationally renowned Senegalese musicians include Ismael Lô, Cheikh Lô, Orchestra Baobab, Baaba Maal, Akon Thione Seck, Viviane, Titi, Papiss Cisse, and Pape Diouf.

Senegal is well known for the West African tradition of storytelling, which is done by griots, who have kept West African history alive for thousands of years through words and music. Griots give voice to generations of West African society.





COURSES & MINORS

BU's program in Wolof is unique. It is the only one in the US to teach students literacy in Ajami, an adapted Arabic script used by many in West Africa whose only schooling comes with the study of the Koran. All language courses use the communicative approach and develop proficiency in the four skills—oral expression, listening comprehension, reading, and writing—while also emphasizing cultural understanding. Wolof language courses can be used to meet the CAS language requirements.

LW 111 -112 First Year Wolof LW 211-212 Second Year Wolof LW 311-312 Third Year Wolof LW 411-412 Fourth Year Wolof LW 491/492 - Directed Study: Wolof

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