



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.



Source: Mustarab Fay
http://www.mustarabfay.com/2008/12/30/sing-sing-juniors-sabar-drum-and-dance-ensemble/img_2265/



Photo by Fallou Ngom

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

Two Minors: African Studies or African Languages & Literature

Each semester more than 75 courses are offered across campus with at least 25% Africa content. Consider a few options:

- ID 116 - Africa Today: The Beat of Popular Culture
- AN 312 - Peoples & Cultures of Africa
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- HI 348 - Colonialism in Africa: Impact & Aftermath
- IR 351 - Africa in International Politics
- PO 378 - International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa
- AH 429 - Photography & Africa: Race & Representation
- AA 588 - Women, Power, & Culture in Africa
- AN 524 - Language & Culture Contacts in Contemporary Africa
- AN 532 - Literacy & Islam in Africa
- AN 593, 594 - Seminar: Topics in Cultural Anthropology

NEW SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN SENEGAL & FRANCE

Dakar / Paris: Youth & Migration Program
bu.edu/abroad or 617-353-9888

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships for Undergraduates (FLAS)

Get paid to study Hausa or any other African language at BU! FLAS awards cover \$10,000 tuition and \$2500 stipend per semester. Applicants are eligible after their first year of language study. Applications are due annually on February 15th.