



SENEGAL TODAY: STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN A TRADITIONAL AND MODERN SOCIETY

APA Program: Dakar Summer

Language of instruction: French

US semester credits: 4.0

Term: Summer 2019

Instructor: Pape Moussa Beye | ISM

Course Description

This course is designed to help familiarize students with the political, social, economic and cultural environment of Senegal in the context of West Africa by studying a series of themes (politics, religion, education, society, women, development, media and art). By exploring these topics, an accurate understanding of the essential nuts and bolts of the Senegalese society will be achieved.

Teaching method: Lecture, group interaction and dialogue

Schedule

Introduction: Senegal Yesterday and Today

- Precolonial Senegal
- The colonial period
- Contemporary Senegal: general data and insight into the West African context

Part I: The Political Situation in Senegal

- Brief political history of Senegal
 - The Socialist era
 - The Liberal era
- The current political context
 - The state of partisan power relations
 - Political participation of civil society
- Analysis of electoral behavior in Senegal

Part II: Religion and Faiths in Senegal

- The Muslim religion
 - The prevalence of Islamic brotherhoods
 - The residual presence of Salafism (version of Sunni faith)
- The Christian religion
 - The prominence of Catholicism
 - The foray of Evangelism
- Traditional beliefs
 - Identification of traditional beliefs
 - The persistence of marginal Animism

- The pervasiveness of beliefs and mystical practices in the contemporary society or the Senegalese Syncretism
- The ground rules for living together in the Senegalese society: Secularism and religious tolerance

Part III: Senegalese Society Between Tradition and Modernity

- The remnants of tradition
 - The cast system
 - Initiation rituals
 - The social rules
- The effects of modernization
 - The constant rise of urbanization
 - The Westernization of morals
 - The multiplication of social pathology

Part IV: Education in Senegal

- Modern education
 - The modern educational system
 - The difficulties of the modern educational system
- Traditional or religious education
 - Koranic Schools (*daaras*)
 - The difficulties with Koranic schools: archaic conditions and the exploitation of "beggar" children (*talibés*)

Part V: The Women of Senegal

- The place of women in traditional society
- The key role of women in contemporary society
- Obstacles placed in the path of women
 - Polygamy
 - Gender bias
 - Violence against women

Part VI: The Issue of Sustainable Development

- The macroeconomic situation in Senegal
- The social situation
- The beginning of emergence
- Strengths and weaknesses of the Senegalese economy

Part VII: The Senegalese Media World

- Vitality and relative autonomy of the Senegalese press
- The E-media boom
- Abuse and tribulations of the Senegalese media

Part VIII: The Arts and Culture in Senegal

- The richness of the Senegalese artistic world
- The difficulties of the artistic sector

Assessment

Continuous assessment, test or expose, final evaluation (3 hours)

Bibliography

- Ba Mame-Penda, « La diversité du fondamentalisme sénégalais. Éléments pour une sociologie de la connaissance », Cahiers d'études africaines, 2012/2 (N° 206-207), p. 575-602. URL : <https://www.cairn.info/revue-cahiers-d-etudes-africaines-2012-2-page-575.htm>.
- Barry Moustapha, Histoire des médias au Sénégal de la colonisation à nos jours, L'Harmattan, 2014.
- CESTI & Fondation Konrad Adenauer, Médias au Sénégal entre mutations et contraintes, Cahiers de l'alternance, 2017.
- Charlier Jean-Émile, « Les écoles au Sénégal : de l'enseignement officiel au daara, les modèles et leurs répliques », Cahiers de la recherche sur l'éducation et les savoirs [En ligne], 3 | 2004, mis en ligne le 01 septembre 2012, consulté le 22 janvier 2018. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/cres/1369>.
- Cissé Blondin, Confréries et communauté politique au Sénégal, L'Harmattan, 2007.