



ENVIRONMENT, CULTURAL MARITIME LANDSCAPE AND EMIGRATION

APA Program: Dakar: June Short-Term

Language of instruction: English

US semester credits: 4.0

Contact hours: 36

Term availability: June Short-Term (3 weeks)

Instructor: Alioune Dème, PhD | Université Cheikh Anta Diop

Course Overview

The study of emigration has undergone significant transformation: from a Eurocentric approach (focusing on far right politics) to an African perspective trying to shed light on how and why immigration occurs. Important works have untangled untested stereotypes: mass invasion of poor, uneducated foreigners who settle permanently in the host country (translocality); the negative impact of immigrants on the host country's social safety nets (social security, healthcare, education), and the loss of national identity. Since the 1990s, scholars have moved from a simplistic analysis to taking into consideration geography, culture, psychology, gender, and socio-politics. This has led to creation of the new migrant profile with new concepts such as urban migrant, brain drain, educated migrants, *Fatou-Fatou*, networks mobilization, the slogan *Barça wala barsakh* ("Barcelona or die" in Wolof), the Atlantic highway.

Moreover, scholars have taken a fresh look at immigration policies: they have analyzed the effect of national policies and international agreements on local realities and subsistence practices. The economic liberalization of the Senegalese sea and its opening to international competition has engendered a diversity of emigration towards Europe both in terms of routes and means of transportation. The emigrant embodies European greed and Senegalese weakness and corruption. This is why emigration from the coast of Senegambia to Europe is seen as a revenge against fishing agreements between the European Union and the Senegalese government. These agreements allow the European fishery industries, with their powerful boats, to compete with the Senegalese fishermen who have small and traditional boats. That competition has diminished the revenues of the Senegalese fishermen pushing them to exile or to build boats for illegal emigration traffickers. The poverty in the coastal area was also increased by environmental deteriorations (coast erosion, rising sea level) that have destroyed habitation, cultural practices, and fishing activities.

To try to alleviate all these problems, the Senegalese government has designed solutions that were mostly unsuccessful. This is why NGO are playing a bigger and more active role.

The course explores these new issues surrounding emigration. It will take place in one of the most

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Syllabus subject to change.

spectacular areas along the Senegalese coastline: the Saloum Delta. This ecological wonderland, home for fishermen and shellfish collectors, is very impacted by the emigration, environmental changes, and cultural transformations wrought in recent years.

The course sketches some of the methodological implications of the ethnographic, historical and socio-economic studies of emigration using anthropological tools of participant observation, interviewing, and cultural mapping. Rote memorization of texts is discouraged in favor of lived experienced, pedagogy through informant / participant: the problematic aspects of accurately portraying and analyzing others as products of their different but own economic and socio-cultural systems. The class will be in a field setting with site visits, guest lectures, and interviews of local populations. There will be class lectures, but the goal is to encourage critical discussion and individual interpretation.

Learning Objective

The principal objective of the course is to provide fundamental knowledge on emigration, cultural ecology, cultural maritime landscape, environment change and EU / Senegal public policies. The student will gain deeper knowledge on emigration and emigration related issues from the local, state, and international points of view. It will help the student better understand migration challenges.

Schedule

Week 1

- Monday - Thursday
 - Installation, paperwork
 - Course presentation,
 - NGO visit (Yayou Bayam)
- Friday
 - Travel and settle into accommodations at Saloum Delta
- Saturday
 - Presentation of Saloum Delta
 - Exploration of the ecology

Week 2

- Monday
 - Lecture: Environment, culture and society
- Tuesday
 - Lecture: Saloum Delta: Geographical and cultural settings
- Wednesday
 - Lecture: The maritime cultural landscape
 - Field visit: Oral history and sacred landscape
- Thursday:
 - Lecture: Fishing practices
 - Field trip: Visit of fishermen and shellfish collectors
- Friday
 - Student project
- Saturday
 - Student project

Week 3

- Monday
 - Lecture: National fishing policies
- Tuesday
 - Lecture: Illegal immigration
 - Field trip: Visit immigrant families
- Wednesday
 - Lecture: The role of NGOs
 - Visit of local projects
- Thursday
 - Lecture: Immigration and societies
- Friday
 - Class reflection
- Saturday
 - Final paper
- Sunday
 - Return to Dakar

Assessment

- Research Paper/Oral Presentation

The grade will be based on combined research paper and oral presentation.

The student will conduct a short fieldwork project related to a topic with anthropological, economical, and socio-political implications. The readings may help give you some ideas for your topic. We also will discuss topics for research during early sessions. In your paper, you should provide an assessment of how your fieldwork or survey data contribute or qualify the theoretical, substantive or methodological contributions of the authors on a particular topic. It is expected that you will augment the course readings by 4-5 additional articles related to your topic. The research paper length will be 8 pages long (double-spaced, minimum 12-point font, 1 inch margins on all sides, Chicago Manual of Style for bibliography).

Oral presentations will occur the last week of class and will be graded as part of your participation grade. Depending on the number of students in class, this date may be adjusted.