



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

**APA Program:** Dakar

**Language of instruction:** French

**US semester credits:** 4.0

**Term:** Summer (6 weeks)

**Instructor:** Idrissa Ba | Associate Professor of Medieval History, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar

## Course Description

This course is an invitation to discover Senegalese culture and society through an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach, focusing on the different realities that make up Senegalese society: family structures, rural and urban realities, religions and beliefs, health, education and cultural policy, the role of women, etc. In addition to lectures, students will have the opportunity to use written documentation as well as films and to take part in field trips and debates to get a concrete view on various themes related to contemporary Senegalese culture and society.

## Schedule

### 1. By way of introduction

- Definition of the concepts of society, culture and Teranga
- Readings:
  - [www.cnrtl.fr](http://www.cnrtl.fr) for the definition of terms.
  - Exploring Africa. Sénégal. <http://exploringafrica.matrix.msu.edu/country-overview/senegal/>
  - <http://www.everyculture.com/Sa-Th/Senegal.html#ixzz3DFagTxSd>

### 2. Reflection on the Senegalese identity

- Senegal: etymologies + symbols of the Senegalese nation + workshop on the socio-cultural identifiers of Senegal
- Senegal from independence to the present day: screening and commentary on the film *President Dia*.
- Readings:
  - Momar Coumba Diop. "Regard Croisés sur le Sénégal : un essai biographique ». In *La société sénégalaise entre le local et le global*, 9-25. Karthala (2002).
  - <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/Senegal-HISTORY.html>
  - Boilat, David, *Esquisses sénégalaises*. A télécharger dans : [www. Gallica.bnf.fr](http://www.Gallica.bnf.fr).
  - Jenan Rily, Emily, *Teranga and the art of hospitality : engendering the nation, politics and religion in Dakar, Sénégal*.

### 3. Values & Traditions

- Religion & Society. Brain storming on the strengths and weaknesses of religions in Senegal.
  - Divination, *xoy* and *maraboutage*. Illustration through a presentation, texts and short films.
  - Visit to a *daara* or participation in a *tuur* or *ndëpp* session.
- Readings:
    - Jean Boulègue, *Le Grand Jolof*.
    - Abdoulaye Bara Diop, *La société wolof*.
    - Mamadou Diouf. « Le problème des castes dans la société wolof. ». *Revue sénégalaise d'histoire* (Polycopie)
    - Adrian H. Hearn, « guardians of culture: the controversial heritage of Senegalese griots », *the Australian journal of anthropology* (15, 2), août 2004, pp. 129-142.  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1835-9310.2004.tb00248.x>
    - « Griots and Traditional Senegalese Caste Structure ». Polycopie.

### 4. Gender, Health, Education and Human Rights

- The Senegalese woman through time.
  - Visit to the Henriette BATHILY Women's Museum.
  - Prostitution and its economic underpinnings. Debate on site with Sokhna NDOYE and Mama BAMBARA, former sex workers and mediators.
  - Workshop on LGBT in Senegal
- Readings:
    - Barry, Oumar, « Aux origines psychiques de l'homosexualité ? », Dakar, *revue sénégalaise de Sociologie, d'Anthropologie et de Psychologie* (03), 2011, pp. 165-180.
    - « Satisfaire aux Besoins de Santé des Hommes qui ont des Rapports Sexuels avec d'autres Hommes au Sénégal ». Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement, Université Cheikh Anta Diop Conseil National de Lutte Contre le SIDA (CNLS). Horizons Program
    - « ANALYSE DE LA SITUATION DE LA FEMME AU SENEGAL ». Polycopie
    - Article sur l'excision : [http://www.seneweb.com/news/Societe/85-des-filles-agees-de-0-a-15-ans-sont-v\\_n\\_166186.html](http://www.seneweb.com/news/Societe/85-des-filles-agees-de-0-a-15-ans-sont-v_n_166186.html)
    - Babacar Mbaye, "The origins of Senegalese Homophobia: Discourses on Homosexuals and Transgender People in Colonial and Postcolonial Senegal", *African Studies Review* (56,2), septembre 2013, pp. 109-128.  
<file:///C:/Users/Administrateur/Downloads/TheOriginsofSenegaleseHomophobia.pdf>
    - Sow, Fatou, « Femmes, Etat et mondialisation au Sénégal », Dakar, CODESRIA, pp. 1-13.
    - Nnamuchi, Obiajulu, "Circumcision" or "Mutilation"? Voluntary or Forced Excision? Extricating the Ethical and Legal Issues in Female Genital Ritual", *Journal of Law and Health (online)* (25.1), 2012, pp. 85-121. <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1056&context=jlh>

## 5. Politics and Society

- The figure of the committed intellectual: screening of the film *Kemtiyu* (short version: 01 h 30)
  - Hip Hop & Social Change. *Guest*: Cheikh SENE also known as Keyti.
  - Debriefing
- Readings:
    - Malick Diagne, « Changer le monde sans prendre le pouvoir » ou les limites d'un projet révolutionnaire : exemple du mouvement y'en a marre au Sénégal », Dakar, *Annales ETHOS* (44-45 B), 2014-5, pp. 235-252.

## 6. A society in the making

- Cultural values and social traditions in loss: example of depigmentation (*xeesal*). Screening and commentary on the film "This Color That Bothers Me" with director Khady POUYE.
  - Powerpoint and workshop on the art of the table and its evolution
- Readings:
    - Fatou Ndiaye et Aissatou Diop, "hypothèque beauté, santé en péril » : [https://www.sudonline.sn/hypothetique-beaute-sante-en-peril-\\_a\\_44318.html](https://www.sudonline.sn/hypothetique-beaute-sante-en-peril-_a_44318.html)
    - Bocoum, Matel, « Dépigmentation artificielle : l'État au banc des accusés », l'Enquête du 1er avril 2015. Lien : <http://www.enquetepius.com/content/depigmentation-artificielle-l%E2%80%99etat-au-banc-des-accus%C3%A9s>
    - Dioh, Leslie B., « Approche sociologique de la dépigmentation artificielle de la peau au Sénégal : le cas de Dakar », Dakar, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, département de Sociologie, mémoire de maîtrise, 2000.
    - Diop, Aminata, « La prostitution clandestine à Dakar », Dakar, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, département de Sociologie, mémoire de maîtrise, 2001.

## 7. Reflections on Migration "Barça or Barsaq:"

- Screening of the film *La pirogue*
- The socio-professional reintegration of emigrants returning voluntarily from Germany and Spain

## 8. Arts and culture

- Educational trip to the Ousmane SOW HUCHARD Museum

## 9. Society, Dance and Music

- Field trip to the Blaise SENGHOR Cultural Center (ballet, dance, orchestra)

## Assessment

- Research work and presentation in class: 50%
- Participation in class: 30%
- Oral presentation: 20%