CIEE Dakar, Senegal

Course title: Wolof Language for Beginners
Course code: WOLO 1001 SNDS
Programs offering course: Development Studies
Language of instruction: Wolof
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

The goal of this course is to provide students with a basic functional knowledge of Wolof, so that they can comprehend and use the language in everyday situations. The focus is on cultural immersion through oral communication.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Demonstrate reading and writing skills;
- Recall and practice concepts needed to navigate cultural experiences;
- Demonstrate skills needed in everyday situations.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

Each lesson will be divided into five parts (based on a 75-minute class):

1. An overview of the lesson with defined objectives
2. Introduction of new vocabulary
3. Grammar instructions
4. Guided exercises and dialogues
5. Notes on culture relevant to the lesson
Assessment and Final Grade

1. Written Exercises 15%
2. Oral Exercises 15%
3. Presentation 15%
4. Final Exam (Written Production) 15%
5. Final Exam (Proficiency Interviews) 20%
6. Class Participation 20%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Written Exercises

After each class, homework is given and it will be corrected in class. It can be an interview, written and oral exercises, presentation or to learn a specific vocabulary relevant to the lesson, etc.

Oral Exercises

15 minutes Oral Quizzes

As a review of what we did in class the day before, each student will be given 15 minutes to practice and review the past lesson. In so doing pronunciation and mistakes could be corrected and questions about the course or Senegalese culture are answered as well. In this part, students who are doing independent researches can share information with their classmates.

Depending on the lesson, students can be asked to do a role play, make a paragraph, etc.

Presentation

Final Exam (Written Production)

Questions dealing with the whole program will be given.

Final Exam (Proficiency Interviews)
The LPI (Language Proficiency Interview) is an oral interview between the teacher and the student. Students should respond appropriately and in detail to the teacher’s questions. This will allow the tester (teacher) to assess the quality and quantity of the student’s production/transcript (use of correct grammatical structures, appropriate vocabulary, flow, spontaneity etc).

Class Participation

It’s the student’s responsibility to be involved in the program. They are expected to attend classes, be on time, do their homework and participate in discussions. In failing to these points they might lose the participation grade and the bonus.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend classes regularly throughout the semester. Students with excused absences (for illness or family emergency, for example) must complete make-up assignments. For any unexcused absence, the professor will subtract two (02) points from the student’s total. A student who arrives 10 minutes after the beginning of the class session will have half one (01) point subtracted from his/her total. A student who comes back to class five minutes after the end of the regular five minute break will have one (01) point subtracted from his/her total.

Students who are assiduous, not disruptive, and who have never missed classes or been late will be granted a three (03) point bonus.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class: Introduction

Orientation class
• Introduction to the alphabet, sound and spelling rules, soft sounds and hard sounds
• Handwriting
• Countries and cities; basic communication phrases.
• Distribution of course materials and textbooks.
• Getting to know you better, the instructor will schedule an individual interview (8-10 minutes) with each student during the first week of classes

Week 2
Class:

Situations/Topics

• Greetings and Introducing oneself
• Good-byes
• Apologies and thanks
• Making simple requests
• Introducing other people

Grammar

• Complement and Object Predicator (Pronoun)
• Independent Subject Pronouns
• Presentative Pronouns
• Present Tense with (Maangi, Yaangi ...etc), Damay, Dangay.....
• Questions with Naka (What)
• Actions Verbs
• Verbs that express a state-of-being and Feeling

Assignments

• Fill in the blank with the appropriate pronoun
• Translate into Wolof
• Give the negative form of the sentence
• Make complete sentences by putting the words in order

Week 3
Activities of practice

- Exercises of reinforcement with maangi, yaangi, damay, dangay etc.
- Role plays
- Interview

Week 4
Class: Rural Visits

Week 5
Class: 

Situations/Topics

- Speaking about one’s family
- Expressing likes/wants/needs
- Talking about one’s belongings

Grammar

- Possessives
- Numbers
- Enunciation & Negation
- Object Emphasis (Perfect /Imperfect)
- NDAX
- The equivalents of the verb “to have”
- Stative Verbs
- How to ask questions in Present Tense

Assignments

- Give the appropriate possessive adjectives
- Write the following numbers in Wolof
• Make your family tree and present it in class
• Interview someone about his/her family and present it to your classmates

Week 6
Class: 

Activities of practice

• Written & oral exercises of reinforcement (possessives, object emphasis etc.)
• Questions & Answers (Present tense)

Assignment

• Senegalese family tree + presentation

Week 7
Class: 

Situations/Topics

• Environment
  • Asking simple questions about people & things
  • Asking and giving directions
  • Basic needs / around the bowl
  • Giving commands

Grammar

• Kii, Lii, Fii
• Negation with DU
• Interrogative words
• Questions with ANA
• Prepositions
• Imperative tense
Assignments

- Translate the verbs and put them in the imperative tense
- Write a dialog in which you ask for directions
- In a paragraph, describe the location of your house using specific prepositions
- Practice directions using a map

Week 8
Class: 

Situations/Topics

- Talking about recent events / experiences
- Asking about someone’s past activities

Grammar

- Past tense
- Object Emphasis
- Pronouns + Action verbs
- Bi + subject + verb (suffixee/oo)
- Questions in the past

Assignment

- Give the past tense of sentences
- Translate into Wolof
- Write a paragraph about what you did last week
- Ask a staff member or one member of your family about something he/she did or happened to him/her not long ago. Report on it in class

Week 9
Class: 

Situations/Topics
• Talking about daily activities
• Asking about someone’s daily activities
• Asking for & telling time

Grammar

• Emphasis on action verbs
• Simple present tense or progressive form
• Habitual present
• Future
• Pronoun emphasis on the object
• Interrogative form
• Temporal Relative: Bu / Su

Assignments

• Transform the sentences using the temporal
• Transform into future
• Translate sentences
• Fill in the blanks with the correct pronoun
• Tell what you usually do on week-ends

Week 10
Class:

Activities of practice

• Students’ reports on break
• Written & oral exercises of reinforcement
• Tea session + guest (practice informal conversation in Wolof)

Assignments

• A letter to a friend (describing one’s daily activities in Sénégal) + presentation
• Talk about one’s projects + presentation

Week 11
Class:  

Situations/Topics

- Body Parts
- Describing a friend or a relative
- Talking about health and sickness

Grammar

- Description verbs
- Suffix i/ji

Assignment

- Describe your best friend

Week 12

Class:  

Situations/Topics

Buying and selling

Bargaining & making purchases in Wolof

Speaking about money & prices

Grammar

- Object pronouns
- Imperative with object pronoun

Assignment

- Trip to market to buy some items foreign to American culture

Week 13

Class:  

Class:  

Situations/Topics

- Body Parts
- Describing a friend or a relative
- Talking about health and sickness

Grammar

- Description verbs
- Suffix i/ji

Assignment

- Describe your best friend
Work on students’ special problems or needs.

Week 14
Class:  

General review of material in preparation for the final exam.

Week 15
Class:  FINAL EXAM

Course Materials
Readings

CIEE Wolof Language for Beginners book