**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:** 3.00  
**Contact hours:** 45.00  
**Term:** Fall 2020

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**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.

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**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.

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**Course Prerequisites**

None.

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**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

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**Assessment and Final Grade**

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

**TOTAL** 100%

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**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**

**Class attendance standards at CIEE Dakar are as outlined below.**

- Regular class attendance is required throughout the program.
- Excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students will be marked absent, and the student will be reminded of the policy at the time of the infraction.
- Students must notify their instructor beforehand, if they will miss class for any reason. Notification must be made via Canvas, and an email copy should be sent to the Center Director and the Program Assistant for Academic Affairs.
- Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.
- Students are responsible for any materials covered in class in their absence. Students who miss class for medical reasons must inform the instructor and provide appropriate documentation to the Center Director and the Program Assistant for Academic Affairs. Make-up opportunity will be provided to the extent this is feasible.
- Students are not permitted to travel away from the program site while classes are in session, unless part of a CIEE-organized excursion.
- Personal travel and/or travel delays are not considered justifiable reasons for missing class.
- Excused absences will not result in a grade reduction (up to the 20% absentee point), and the expectation is that, when possible, the missed classwork will be made up either by an alternative or additional means of assessment appropriate to the missed material.
- Excused absences will continue to count toward total percentage accumulation of missed classes, and more than 20% total class time missed may still result in removal from the course or program (reviewed on a case-by-case basis with the CIEE Regional Director of Operations and Academic Affairs in consultation with the Center Director).

An absence in a CIEE course will only be considered excused if:

- a doctor's note from a local medical professional is provided;
- a CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class;
- evidence is provided of a family emergency;
- the CIEE Center Director approves an absence related to an observance of a religious holiday.

**Absences & Grade reduction**
Subsequent absences totaling 20% or more of class time may result in failure and dismissal from the class and/or program, at the discretion of CIEE.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Equivalent Number of classes</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>3 content classes, or 3 language classes</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10 – 20%                               | 4—6 content classes, or 4—6 language classes | Participation graded as per class requirements; 3% grade deduction*; written warning
(students with more than 10% of total course hours missed, or violations of the attendance policies in more than one class) will lead to an immediate written warning from the CIEE Center Director / Academic Director and notification to the student’s home school
For absences that fall between 10-20% of total course hours, CD will issue additional written warnings to students, and notifications to the home school advisor, as relevant to the individual student situation. |
| More than 20%                           | 7 or more content classes, or 7 or more language classes | Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion |
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
Class: 

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**
Assignments

- 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:

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