



CIEE in Dakar, Senegal

Course name:	Wolof Language for Beginners
Course number:	WOLO 1001 SGSM
Programs offering course:	Language and Culture
Language of instruction:	French / Wolof
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2019

Course Description

The beginning course in Wolof will introduce students to the Wolof language as well as to Wolof oral tradition and culture. The course will focus on spoken Wolof but will also help students develop reading and writing skills. We will cover basic vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. The goal is to provide a comprehensive, interactive, and fun learning experience for students. Oral tests, oral participation in class, compositions and lab activities will serve as the basis for developing communication. Exercises and structured conversational activities will allow students to develop the skills they will need in everyday situations.

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 dialogue
5. Notes on culture relevant to the lesson

Learning Objectives

The goal is to provide a comprehensive, interactive, and fun learning experience for students. Oral tests, oral participation in class, compositions and lab activities will serve as the basis for developing communication. Exercises and structured conversational activities will allow students to develop the skills they will need in everyday situations.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

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Assessment and Final Grade

In addition to a final examination, 15-minute oral quizzes will be given before each class to ensure and evaluate student progress throughout the course. A significant portion of the final grade will be dependent on student attendance, preparation and active participation. This includes: timely completion of all assigned exercises, participation in conversation sessions and discussions on readings, and taking part in the production of a student play. Students' final grade will be based on the following criteria:

- **Three (03) assignments (15% each, for a total of 45%)**
 - 1) Written exercises:15%
 - 2) Oral exercises:15%
 - 3)Presentation :15%
- **Participation (20%)**
- **Final exam (35%):**
 - *Written production: 15 %
 - *Language Proficiency Interviews (LPI):20%

In addition to the requirements mentioned above, 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.

Course Requirements

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....

Assignments

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, et c.

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.

Final exam

The final exam is divided into 2 parts: the written production (15%) and the Language Proficiency Interviews (20%).

In both of them, questions dealing with the whole program will be given.

NB: 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.)

Weekly Schedule

Weeks 1

- Distribution of course materials and textbooks. Orientation class. Getting to know you better, the instructor will schedule an individual interview (8-10 minutes) with each student during the first week of classes.



- **Introduction:** The alphabet, sound and spelling rules, soft sounds and hard sounds, Handwriting. Countries and cities; basic communication phrases.

Weeks 2

➤ **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

Weeks 3

• **Activities of practice**

Exercises of reinforcement with *maangi, yaangi, damay, dangay* etc.

Role –plays

Interview

Week 4: Rural visits

Weeks 5

➤ **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

Weeks 6

Activities of practice

Written & oral exercises of reinforcement (possessives, object emphasis etc.)

Questions & Answers (Present tense)

Assignment

Senegalese family tree + presentation

Weeks 7

➤ **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

Weeks 8

➤ **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

Weeks 9

➤ **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: Break

Weeks 11

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 12

➤ **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 13

➤ **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 14

Work on students' special problems /needs

Week 15

General Review

Week 16

FINAL EXAM

Readings

CIEE Wolof Language for Beginners book