

AFRE 399/692 Senegal STUDY TOUR for Students (3 credits)

Culture and Customs of Senegal (AFRE 399/692) brings together students and professors from three Albany-area colleges for a joint 3-week study tour to Senegal, West Africa. It is open to undergraduate and graduate students. The course begins by preparing students in the US for their June – early July studies and travels abroad.

The US portion of the course includes 5 joint meetings with Africana specialists Drs. Eloise Brière (SUNY at Albany), Cheikh Ndiaye (Union College), and Kevin Hickey (ACPHS) along with participating students from each school. These joint meetings are seminars, two of which will be field trips including a visit to New York City's Little Senegal, and Skidmore College's upcoming world-class exhibit of recent African art at the Tang Museum, including a seminar with a well-known Senegalese painter. In this portion of the course, students are introduced to Senegal, and each student pre-selects the activity s/he intends to focus on while resident in that country.

During the Africa portion of this course, students immerse themselves in Senegalese culture. Pairs of students reside with selected Senegalese families. Activities in Senegal include guest lectures at the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, travel, cultural events, and approximately one week participating in a selected field such as healthcare, orphan care, women's issues, the environment (eco-village), urban planning, teaching in a school, or studying dance, music, or language. Through guided tours, students learn about the geography, animal life, history, the economy, religions, languages, people, arts, cultures, and both urban and rural environments of this West African country.

Daytime activities are supplemented by evening discussions and presentations at WARC.

Course Details:

Prior knowledge of French not required but a useful plus.

Each student keeps a daily journal during the Senegal portion of this course and writes weekly blogs to the USA. If more U/Albany students have the funds to go to Senegal than there are available slots, the professor will use performance in the first part of the course as well as previous participation in AFRE 481/581, 208, or 341 to select which students will travel to Senegal. In the event that a student does not go to Senegal, that student will complete the course by viewing a series of African films and writing a 20-page research paper in consultation with Dr. Brière. The Study Tour costs are approximately \$3,000 plus airfare.

For information:

**E. Briere
HU 219
442-4103
ebriere@albany.edu**