Study Abroad Proposal

The Department of French and Italian, African American and Diaspora Studies, Islamic Studies and the Global Education Office propose the addition of a direct-credit study abroad program in Dakar, Senegal administered through CIEE. This proposal outlines the rationale for establishing such a program for Vanderbilt students and provides information regarding its academic and cultural benefits.

Rationale for adding CIEE Senegal as a Vanderbilt-approved direct-credit study abroad program:

The success of the newly-approved Cape Town, South Africa program and the Kampala Project through the Office of Active Citizenship and Service, indicate a growing interest in study abroad programs in Africa. This program is designed for a wide variety of students, including those interested in studying the political and economic challenges facing Africa and developing nations, in continuing French language study and learning Wolof, and those seeking a cultural immersion experience in West Africa.

The Senegal program also offers wonderful opportunities, in the classroom and in the community, for students interested in issues surrounding development, international relations, and West African history and culture.

1) **Location:** This program is especially suited for students majoring in French, African American and Diaspora studies, political science, international development, communications, or economics who have a keen interest in the West Africa or Francophone Africa. The CIEE program also offers coursework in Islam which could greatly enhance the new Islamic studies minor at Vanderbilt.

2) **Additional program in French:** Currently Vanderbilt only offers programs in France (Aix en Provence and Paris, which will be offered Spring 2008). There are no Vanderbilt-approved direct credit programs in other French-speaking countries in Europe or Africa.

3) **Unique Program:** Should not compete with VIS Aix en Provence program because of the location, language requirements, and course offerings. There is also the possibility of students with a high proficiency in French to take classes at the local university.

4) **Accommodates all Language Levels:** CIEE offers courses in French and English, thereby providing an opportunity for non-French-speakers to learn the language.

5) **Experiential Learning:** Offers internship options for academic credit for both French and non-French speakers. Vanderbilt students overwhelmingly want these two types of options built into Vanderbilt-approved study abroad programs (see 2006 Perceptions of Study Abroad Survey). These internships could be custom-tailored to students interested in improving their medical French proficiency, thereby enhancing the value of the Medical French coursework at Vanderbilt.

Program Snapshot
- Ideal for students interested in French, African studies, development studies, and international relations
- Homestays with Senegalese families provide strong cultural immersion
- Opportunities for community service/internships
- Discoveries in African art, dance, and music
- Excursions to places such as Gorée Island, Saint Louis, or the Sine-Saloum region, and a rural stay in a Senegalese village
- Peer language tutors
- For-credit internships
- Volunteering

Dakar

The Republic of Senegal, which achieved independence in 1960 after more than a century of French colonial rule, is one of the most democratic and developed countries in West Africa. Senegal has a population of nearly twelve million, with two and a half million living in Dakar, the political and economic capital and one of West Africa’s most important and vibrant cities. Although French is the country’s official language and Wolof the predominant language, other languages are spoken by the country’s multi-ethnic population which is more than 90% Muslim.

Academic Program

The CIEE Study Center in Dakar offers students the opportunity to live and study in a French-speaking West African country and to immerse themselves in two of Senegal’s official languages: French and Wolof. Through a broad range of coursework in English and/or French, students are also able to engage in topics concerning Africa in general, and Senegal specifically. By doing so, participants gain a greater understanding of the issues and challenges facing Senegal today and learn first-hand about this multi-lingual society.

Institutional Partner

Suffolk University - Dakar Campus

The CIEE Study Center in Dakar is operated in conjunction with Suffolk University-Dakar Campus. The CIEE Study Center office is located at Suffolk University-Dakar campus and language instruction and CIEE area studies courses take place there. CIEE students have access to the library, computer labs, and other facilities at Suffolk University-Dakar Campus but should understand that they will study exclusively with other CIEE students.

Internships
Students may participate in a community service project or internship for credit, consisting of 60 hours of practical experience, and a 30-hour seminar taught and coordinated by a CIEE-hired instructor. Final internship placements are determined onsite and based on students' academic or research interests as well as their French language proficiency. Volunteer opportunities are available for those students who do not participate in the community service project for credit.

Academic Culture

CIEE classes are open to CIEE students only. Occasionally, African students from Suffolk University-Dakar Campus take part in CIEE courses. Participants will notice striking differences between their home educational system and the Senegalese model, based on the French system. While students in the U.S. are accustomed to a very structured system, the Senegalese method generally requires students to take greater initiative and responsibility in a less structured environment. Some American students could misperceive a course as having a light workload or few assignments, but students are expected to engage in a great deal of individual study and extensive reading outside of the classroom.

The Resident Director oversees all CIEE courses, taught in English or French. Senegalese professors, most of whom also hold faculty appointments at Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), teach these courses. CIEE Study Center courses run for 12 weeks (two 2-hour sessions per week) for a total of 45 hours and include a broad range of subjects.

Classes are generally lecture-based, but CIEE teachers are encouraged to foster more interactive classroom dynamics. In addition to lectures and discussions, many classes involve student presentations, which may take up a greater part of the course schedule than students are accustomed to in the U.S. Courses are designed to offer opportunities for students to draw a parallel between the theoretical information they receive in the classroom and the social and cultural experiences they live outside of class. Field trips and guest speakers are organized to supplement students’ education and give a practical orientation to their learning.

CIEE students have access to various local institutions and research organizations for research and special activities. These include access to the West African Research Center (WARC), the UCAD library, and the Baobab Center.

CIEE Language Commitment

As students gain proficiency in French and Wolof, resident staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. The more students participate, the more a community that contributes to French and Wolof language proficiency and understanding of Senegalese society develops.

Grading System
Final grades in CIEE courses are based on a combination of attendance, participation, papers, presentations, and a final paper or exam. For the internship, the final grade is based on participation and a final report. The Resident Director reports Senegalese numerical grades (0–20 scale) in U.S. letter grades using a conversion scale.

Goals

The goals of the program are fourfold: to offer students the opportunity to live and study in a French-speaking West African country; to introduce students to Senegalese society and issues such as education, women’s roles, and the impact of development and globalization from a West African perspective; to enable students to develop and/or acquire language skills in French and Wolof; and to provide opportunities for cultural immersion through living with a Senegalese family and participating in a community service project or internship.

Course Listings

Please visit:

Program Requirements

Students take five courses each semester: three required and two elective courses. The three required courses constitute the CIEE core curriculum: Contemporary Senegalese Society and Culture (in French or English, depending on the results of a French language placement test completed upon arrival in Dakar), French language, and Wolof language. Students then choose two elective courses.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15 semester/22.5 quarter hours and for the academic year is 30 semester/45 quarter hours. Contact hours are 45 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course, unless otherwise indicated.

Courses

Required CIEE Course

in English

AFST 3001 SGSM
Contemporary Senegalese Society and Culture
This course explores diverse aspects of Senegalese society and culture, including political, economic, social, and family structures; rural vs. urban realities; religions and beliefs; health, education, and cultural policies; and women's roles. In addition to guest lecturers from a wide range of disciplines, topics germane to Senegalese society and culture are addressed through literature and film.

in French

AFST 3003 SGSM
Contemporary Senegalese Society and Culture
This section of the core course is open only to students who place into Advanced French I or higher. The course addresses a wide range of issues relevant to contemporary Senegalese society and culture. In addition to the use of novels and films, guest lecturers discuss the complex interactions between history, politics, culture, and identity in contemporary Senegal. Students are encouraged to reflect critically, but non-judgmentally, on problems they find in their daily interactions with Senegalese. Through close observation and analysis, students refine their understanding of Senegalese society and culture.

Required CIEE Language Courses

WOLO 1001 SGSM
Wolof Language for Beginners
The goal of this course is to provide students with a basic, functional knowledge of Wolof so they can comprehend and use the language in everyday situations. The focus is on cultural immersion through oral communication.

French language instruction is intended to improve all areas of language learning and help students understand and interact with French speakers in Senegal and other Francophone countries. Communicative activities are based on real-life situations and authentic texts. Participants are placed in an appropriate language class based on a proficiency examination given at the beginning of the program. All levels include a phonetics component to improve pronunciation.

FREN 1002 SGSM
Beginning French
Basic structures are covered, and learners acquire the ability to express themselves in the present, past, and future tenses and achieve the following: greeting people; describing oneself, family, and friends; describing one's daily routine, professional life and interests; making purchases and negotiating; and asking for directions and using public transportation.

FREN 2001 SGSM
Intermediate French I
After a quick review of basic structures, students proceed to more complex communicative acts, such as making comparisons; expressing opinions, wishes, preferences, regrets, and
other emotions; and asking complex questions. Vocabulary instruction focuses on complex
descriptions, lexical nuances, and common idiomatic expressions.

**FREN 2002 SGSM**
**Intermediate French II**
This course entails the study of complex verb tenses and structures through the use of
authentic written texts, and analysis of conversations and interviews with French speakers.
Emphasis is placed on accuracy, pronunciation, and fluency. Specialized vocabulary
relevant to learners’ interests with a focus on cross-cultural topics is developed.

**FREN 3001 SGSM**
**Advanced French I**
Discussions focus on different speech registers, professional and/or intellectual topics,
texts, and concepts. Written and oral assignments may include research, essays and formal
presentations on specific topics related to cultural experiences and current events.

**FREN 3002 SGSM**
**Advanced French II**
This course focuses on analyzing different speech registers, writing on professional and/or
intellectual topics, reading literary texts, and discussing issues relating to Senegalese
culture and politics. Written and oral assignments include formal papers and presentations
on specific topics.

**CIEE Elective Courses**
*Fall and spring course offerings are subject to change. The French-taught elective courses
are reserved for students who test into Advanced French I or Advanced French II. Students
who place into the intermediate levels need special permission from the Resident Director
to enroll in these courses.*

**Fall and Spring Courses**
in French

**HIST 3003 SGSM/RELI 3001 SGSM**
**History of Islam**
This course presents the history of Islam from the 10th through the 20th centuries,
specifically emphasizing its evolution and development in Senegal. It examines its
historical, philosophical, and theological development and also familiarizes students with
the basic beliefs and practices of Islam. In addition, the course touches on Sufi
brotherhoods, koraanic education, and Islam during the colonial era. This course may also
include a field trip to the holy city of Touba. *Instructor: Cheikh Mbacke Sène*

**INSH 3002 SGSM**
**Community Service/Internship**
The for-credit community service project or internship consists of a minimum of 60 hours
of practical experience combined with a 30-hour seminar with several guest speakers.
Participants keep a journal, write a final research report, and give a formal oral
presentation. Specific internships are negotiated in conjunction with individual students’
academic or research interests and skills. Contact hours: 90. Recommended credit: 3
semester/4.5 quarter hours. *Instructor: Aminata Dièye*

**INTE 3001 SGSM**
**Crisis Management and International Law in Africa**
This class examines international public law as applied in the management of crises in
Africa. Students learn to define and understand the origins and effects of several major
conflicts on the continent. They then assess, analyze, and examine resolution methods and
mechanisms, including the role of international organizations. *Instructor: Dr. Babacar
Gueye, School of Law, UCAD*

**Fall Courses**
in English

**AFST 3002 SGSM/LITT 3001 SGSM**
**African Society through Contemporary Literature**
This course introduces students to Africa through a comparative analysis of diverse literary
works from Francophone and Anglophone African countries. Works are examined in light of
their treatment and representation of relevant issues and themes, particularly with regard

to their African specificities. Instructor: Moulaye Jobe, Lycée Limamoulsye

**GEND 3101 SGSN**
**Gender and Development in Senegal and Sub-Saharan Africa**
Governments, NGOs, and international agencies have documented the importance of gender dynamics in the development process. This course examines the role and contributions of women in this process. It focuses on the sociological, economic, and political challenges and constraints faced by women in their efforts to empower themselves and their communities. *Instructor: Dr. Mame Selbee Diouf Ndiaye*

**HIST 3001 SGSN**
**Topics in West African History: Colonization and Decolonization**
This overview of Senegal’s colonial history covers topics such as the end of legitimate rule in Senegambia; the imbalance of political leadership in France; France and the Ancien Régime’s economic system; the challenge to British pragmatism; and various concepts of modernity. *Instructor: Dr. Ibrahima Seck, Department of History, UCAD*

*in French*

**ECON 3001 SGSN**
**Development Economics**
This course analyzes development history, theories, inequalities, and particular obstacles concerning development in Africa. Students discuss current initiatives and issues in development, including structural adjustment policies, agricultural subsidies, free trade agreements, NEPAD, and the Millennium Account Challenge. *Instructor: Chérif Sidy Kane, School of Economics, UCAD*

**PUBH 3001 SGSN**
**Public Health and Development in Senegal and Africa**
This course introduces students to the major public health problems faced by Senegal as a developing country. A particular emphasis is on analyzing the priorities, needs, as well as the environmental factors that come into play in the development of programs and prevention strategies. Field excursions to various sites are organized to facilitate students' understanding of the issues developed in class.

*Spring Courses*

*in English*

**EDUC 3102 SGSN**
**Education and Culture in Senegal**
This course provides an overview of the past and present Senegalese educational system, to assess the adequacy of the system with respect to the nation’s development goals, and examines the links between language, education, and development in the context of a multicultural African country. Field trips include visits to literacy programs and schools in Dakar. *Instructor: Mouhamadou Lamine Kane, WARC*

**ENVI 3102 SGSN**
**Environment and Development in Senegal and Sub-Saharan Africa**
This course looks at Senegal's diverse yet fragile environment, characterized by the urgent demand for water; the needs of an ever-increasing population; dramatic climatic changes and seasons; markedly irregular rainfall patterns and resulting environmental challenges; and assaults of extensive desertification. Field trips include visits to dumping sites, water treatment plants, polluted areas, and environmental projects in Gambêrêne, Mbeubeusse, Hann Bay and other sites. *Instructor: Dr. Cheikh Mbow, Department of Environmental Sciences, UCAD*

**HIST 3002 SGSN**
**Topics in West African History: Atlantic Slave Trade**
The course begins with an overview of the history of African societies prior to the arrival of the Europeans, and then looks at the consequences and impact of the slave trade on contemporary African society. This course may include trips to Gorée Island and St. Louis. *Instructor: Dr. Ibrahima Seck, Department of History, UCAD*

**WOLO 2001 SGSN**
**Intermediate Wolof**
This course is a continuation from Wolof Language for Beginners and is intended for academic year students who wish to continue studying Wolof. The course is designed to increase students' facility to read, comprehend, speak, and write in Wolof and students proceed to more advanced syntax and vocabulary, written essays, guided discussions, and class presentations on relevant culture topics. Classes promote a deeper understanding of the language and culture through music, media, and Wolof proverbs.

_in French_

**ANTH 3001 SGSW**  
**Social Anthropology: Explorations in African Cultures**  
This course examines the intersection between traditional cultures and contemporary development in Africa and Senegal. Through studies in art, philosophy (especially the works of Cheikh Anta Diop), education, and religious and moral traditions, the course outlines these cultures and the distinguishing characteristics between different ethnicities and regions within Senegal. Students investigate changes and dilemmas posed by development, democracy, and globalization in Africa. *Instructor: Youssoupha Diop, Lycée Blaise Diagne*

**PUBH 3001 SGSW**  
**Public Health and Development in Senegal and Africa**  
This course introduces students to the major public health problems faced by Senegal as a developing country. A particular emphasis is on analyzing the priorities, needs, and environmental factors that come into play in the development of programs and prevention strategies. Field excursions to various sites are organized to facilitate students' understanding of the issues developed in class.

This course listing is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a contract between CIEE and any applicant, student, institution, or other party. The courses, as described, may be subject to changes as a result of ongoing curricular revisions, assignment of lecturers and teaching staff, and program development. Courses may be cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. Syllabi for the CIEE courses listed above are available upon request.

**Faculty**

All courses are taught by Senegalese faculty, many of whom hold faculty appointments at Université Cheikh Anta Diop.

**CIEE Course Numbering System**

The following schema is used for the coding of all courses created specifically for CIEE program participants. Courses taken via direct enrollment at a host institution typically are not assigned CIEE course codes.

**Discipline / Number / Suffix**  
**HIST / 3001 / ALIC**

**Discipline**

The discipline is a four-letter code indicating academic discipline. In some cases, courses will be cross-listed:

HIST 3001 ALIC / ECON 3001 ALIC: Economic History of Spain

There are standard abbreviations for Independent Study (INDE), Area Studies Courses (AREA), and Internships (INSH).

**Number**

The second element is a four-digit number indicative of level. As CIEE students are primarily juniors, most content courses are numbered 3000 and higher. Language courses adhere to a standard U.S. protocol: courses starting with "1" are elementary level; courses starting with "2" are intermediate level; courses starting with "3" are advanced; courses starting with "4" are post-advanced.

**Suffix**

The third element indicates either the program site (ALIC for Alicante) or a subset of courses at a site.

Internships

Students may participate in a community service project or internship for credit, consisting of 60 hours of practical experience, and a 30-hour seminar taught and coordinated by a CIEE-hired instructor. Final internship placements are determined onsite and based on students’ academic or research interests as well as their French language proficiency. Volunteer opportunities are available for those students who do not participate in the community service project for credit.