



Reading & Writing through Current Events

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: SNGL 3202

Number of Credits: 4

Language of Instruction: French

Contact Hours: 60

Instructor: TBD

Course Description

This course aims to teach students reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through written and audio-visual materials in French. It is designed for students who have already taken advanced-level courses in French and aim to deepen and broaden their knowledge and skills in the language. Materials in this class include literary and scientific works in French as well as news broadcasting on television and newspaper articles.

Course Objectives

At the end of this class, students will be able to:

1. Read and understand various text types in French
2. Listen to and understand news in French from French (France 24, TV5, etc.) and Senegalese television (RTS, TFM, SENTV, etc.)
3. Write reviews of texts and newspaper articles and reports in French
4. Speak French using idiomatic expressions and complex structures such as embedded clauses and complex vocabulary words and expressions.

Required Reading / Materials

Novels: Karim by Ousmane Socé, l'Aventure Ambigüe by Cheikh Hamidou Kane, and Une si Longue Lettre by Mariama Bâ.

Articles from newspapers such as: l'Observateur, Le Soleil, Sud Quotidien, Le Monde.

Texts from French textbook: Le Français en seconde, a high school-level textbook

News broadcasting from France 24, RFI, TV5, etc.

Scholarly articles: Politiques linguistiques au Sénégal au lendemain de l'indépendance. Entre idéologie et réalisme politique by El Hadj Abdoul Aziz Faty

Other scholarly articles to be provided by the instructor

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Attendance and participation	15%
Homework assignment	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Class presentation	25%
Overall grade	100%

Assessment Details

Assignments: You will be given an assignment after every class meeting to be turned in the next meeting. Failure to turn in one's assignment will result in lowering one's grade.

Attendance and participation: You are expected to attend every single class and actively participate in all classroom discussions.

Midterm exam: The midterm exam will cover half of the course. The midterm has both a written and oral part.

Final Exam: The final exam covers the whole course. The final exam also has both a written and oral part.

Course Content

Unit 1

Reading: Karim, novel written by Ousmane Socé Diop

Speaking: students' presentations of the first half of Karim

Writing: Cultural values in Saint-Louis

Listening: France 24/TV5 news broadcasting

Unit 2

Reading: Karim, novel written by Ousmane Socé Diop

Speaking: Students' presentation of the second half of Karim

Writing: Celebrations in Senegalese society and culture

Listening: Journal télévisé de la RTS

Unit 3

Reading: l'Aventure Ambigüe, novel written by Cheikh Hamidou Kane

Speaking: Presentation of the first half of the l'Aventure Ambigüe

Writing: Nonformal education system in Senegal

Listening: Journal télévisé de la TFM

Unit 4

Reading: l'Aventure Ambigüe, novel written by Cheikh Hamidou Kane

Speaking: Students' presentation of the second half of the l'Aventure Ambigüe

Writing: Clashing views between formal and non formal education systems in Senegal

Listening: Journal télévisé de la SENTV

Unit 5

Reading: Une si longue lettre, novel written by Mariama Bâ

Speaking: Students' presentation of the first half of Une si longue lettre

Writing: Polygamy in Senegalese society and culture

Listening: News broadcasting by Radio France Internationale (RFI)

Unit 6

Reading: Une si longue lettre, novel written by Mariama Bâ

Speaking: Students' presentation of the second half of Une si longue lettre

Writing: Clashing views between tradition and modernity

Listening: News broadcasting by Radio France Internationale (RFI)

Unit 7

Students' final presentations

Final exam

Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).