Dakar Summer Program 2017
Duration: Wednesday, 6/28/17 – Wednesday, 8/9/17.
Directed by Amadou T Fofana

**Course Description**

**Film, Culture & Development in West Africa**
"Culture is a matrix of infinite possibilities and choices. From within the same culture matrix we can extract arguments and strategies for the degradation and ennoblement of our species, for its enslavement or liberation, for the suppression of its productive potential or its enhancement."¹
Using this statement as a basis for reflection, this course is designed to examine how different forms of artistic expression, including cinema, are being used in West Africa to promote development. With selected texts, films, lectures, and seminars, this course problematizes the notion of development and engages with academic discussions around key factors which shape, influence, and constrain the existence and experience of poverty.

**Student Learning Objectives.** Through successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- critically engage how artists, including filmmakers, photographers, painters, etc., participate in development efforts
- experience first-hand interaction with local artists and small business owners
- examine and problematize the notion of development
- understand how individual identities, global processes and experiences shape poverty and create obstacles and challenges to, and opportunities for, development;

**Required Readings:** All articles and book chapters will be posted on the course web site:

1. Cinema and Development in West Africa by James E. Genova
2. The Gender Terrains in African Cinema by Dominica Dipio

Additional readings will be made electronically available

**Grading Criteria**

In accordance with the course overview above, the final grade will be based on the following:

- A 4-page commentary on a current issue based on two related articles in a Dakar daily paper (e.g. Le Soleil, Sud Quotidien, Wal Fajri), and a discussion of the issue with a Senegalese student or other person on campus or at your placement site – 20% [due on July 17]

¹ Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian Nobel Laureate.
• A 4-page reflection on two of the assigned readings or films in dialogue with a guest lecture or your observations outside the class room – 20% [due on or before July 31]

• Extent and quality of class participation (lead discussion, raise questions and issues related to readings, ask questions of guest lecturers) – 20%

• Class project: 2017 Summer Program Newsletter that provides the reader with an engaging introduction to contemporary Senegal through highlights of your experience – 40% (20% individual contribution; 20% visual appeal of the newsletter and collaborative effort). Details to be discussed. [due on August 7]

The papers should be double-spaced in 12 point New Roman font with 1 inch margins. A handwritten paper should be of equivalent length.

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**Week One**

**Senegal: a brief introduction**

**Thursday, June 29**

**Readings:** [read prior to arrival]


Film screening followed by discussion: *Imaginary Market: Colobane* by Joanna Grabski, Dennison University

**Friday, June 30**

**Visit of downtown Dakar and Sandaga market**

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**Week Two**

**Monday, July 3**

*Introduction to International Development*, chaps 1 and 2

**Tuesday, July 4**

*Introduction to International Development*, chap 26

**Wednesday, July 5**

*Introduction to International Development*, chap 3, 6
Thursday, July 6  
*Introduction to International Development*, chap 7, 8, 9

**Friday, July 7**  
**Reading:** Boahen, Adu. 1986. “The Trans-Saharan Trade” (pp. 1-10) and “West Africa and Europe” (pp. 102-116). In *Topics in West African History*, Adu Boahen. [Posted as: Boahen_Trans-Saharan & Boahen_Europeans]

**Day trip to Gorée Island**

**Week Three**

**Monday, July 3**  
**Guest speaker** from ENDA Tiers-Monde

**Tuesday, July 4**  
Reviewing a film: Glossary of film terms; Becoming a film reviewer: Things to consider; *Film Art* “Critical Analysis of Film” (Chap 7) by David Bordwell. *Cinema and Development in West Africa* chapter 2

**Wednesday, July 5**  
*Cinema and Development in West Africa* chapter 3

**Thursday, July 6**  
*Cinema and Development in West Africa* chapter 4

**Friday, July 7**  
**Guest speaker** Abdou Aziz Cisse (Office of National Cinematography)  
Visit to a local theatre: Bada Cine (Gueule Tapée) and conversation with theatre owner

**Week Four**  
Population, film, and the African diaspora

**Monday, July 10**  
**Guest Lecture** – Professor Babacar Fall (FASTEF/UCAD)

*Cinema and Development in West Africa* chapter 5

**Tuesday, July 11**  

**Wednesday, July 12**  
**Guest Speaker** – Professor Babacar Samb (UCAD) : “La pratique de l’Islam au Sénégal.”  

**Thursday, July 13-Sat, July 15**  
**Excursion to Touba and Kaolack**
Week Five

Monday, July 17
“Why Can’t People Feed Themselves?” by Frances Moore Lappé and Joseph Collins; *Introduction to International Development* Chap 5.

Screening of *Moolaade* (2005) by Ousmane Sembene

Tuesday, July 18
The Gender Terrains in African Cinema Chap 1 and 2; *The Films of Ousmane Sembene: Discourse, Politics, and Culture* by Amadou T Fofana Chap 7; *Introduction to International Development* Chap 15 and 18.

*Visit monument de la renaissance* + conversation with Abdoulaye Racice Senghor

Wednesday, July 19
Guest Lecture – Professor Valy Faye (FASTEF/UCAD): “Introduction au Sine-Saloum et son histoire”.

*Visit le musée Senghor & la Fondation Senghor* + conversation with Racine Kane and Raphael Ndiaye

Thursday, July 20

Friday, July 21-July 23
Excursion to Joal-Fadiouth and Palmarin

Week Six

Monday, July 31
Screening of *Ceddo* by Sembene Ousmane

Tuesday, August 1
Discussion of *Ceddo* & The Gender Terrains in African Cinema Chap 3, 4 and 5

Wednesday, Aug 2

Thursday, August 3
Discussion of Faat Kine & *The Films of Ousmane Sembene: Discourse, Politics, and Culture* by Amadou T Fofana Chap 6
Friday, August 4  
Week Seven  
**Excursion to Lac Rose (Pink lake)**

Monday, August 7  
**Discussion:** Reflections on Excursions

Tuesday, August 8  
Presentation of Practicum Portfolios

Wednesday, August 9  
Work Session to finalize 2015 Program Newsletter & Wrap-up

**Note:** Parts of the activities listed in this syllabus may be subject to change.