

January

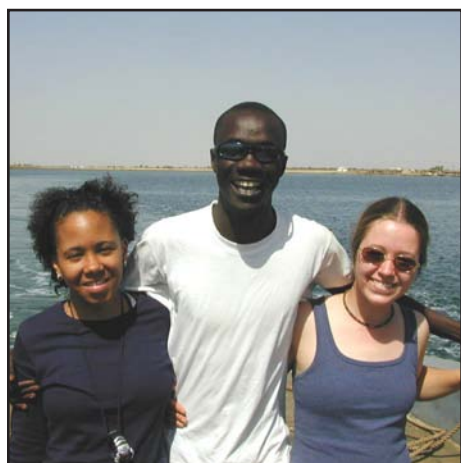


Study Abroad in Ecovillages

Senegal

Sustainable Development in Ecovillages

Explore the impact of global trends and policies on sustainable development in Senegal, where an ancient heritage and vibrant cultures are still intact to a degree rarely found in today's world. Experience evolving models of community development in Senegalese ecovillages – communities striving to create cooperative lifestyles in harmony with their local environments. In addition to classes and seminars, each U.S. student will work in partnership with local university students and Senegalese villagers to apply Appreciative Inquiry research methods and capacity-building Micro-Credit lending in order to improve purchasing power and quality of life in the villages. Students contribute creatively to ongoing, much-needed field projects as they study the complex relationship between humans, development needs, and the environment. This course is taught in *English*.



Program Highlights

- ☀ Work side-by-side with Senegalese university students on a project to improve the quality of life in rural villages
- ☀ Learn Appreciative Inquiry (AI) and Participatory Action Research (PAR) methods and help assess villagers needs
- ☀ Visit Goree Island, the last stop for the slave trade on the voyage to the Americas
- ☀ Homestay with welcoming Senegalese families in rural, historic villages
- ☀ Enjoy tropical beaches and vibrant local music and dance

Academic Credit and 2010 Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts Amherst



Course: Sustainable Development in West Africa: Theory & Practice (ANTH 396E)

January term 2010 12/28 - 1/17 (subject to change: see website)

Living Routes is an independent, non-profit educational organization whose academic programs are accredited by UMassAmherst.

Senegal



EcoYoff and Service Learning

The program begins at the urban community of EcoYoff, part of a 600 year-old fishing village within Dakar, where students are oriented to Senegalese culture, get to know their Senegalese university partners, and become proficient in Appreciative Inquiry (AI) research methods. With new cultural and theoretical knowledge, the group departs for a rural development tour of Senegalese ecovillages. In each ecovillage, students enter into dialogue with villagers, participate in cultural activities and work together on development projects that will benefit the community. Students live with families in culturally rich and ethnically diverse villages including Moor, Wolof and Peul communities known for their carpet weaving, ceremonial dance, protection of Acacia forests, and the arts. Villages visited by past Living Routes programs include:

- ☀ Mboul, the former capital of the Cayor Kingdom, inhabited by artists and Griot descendents of the old kingdom, which thrives under pre-industrial conditions.
- ☀ Méckhé, home to a dynamic women's group replacing the use of firewood with solar cookers and succeeding in an extensive reforestation effort to roll back the advancing desert.
- ☀ Nder, ancient site of the powerful Wollo Kingdom– today, a thriving ecovillage that showcases its rich history through the arts.



EcoYoff is part of a fishing village on the Atlantic coast.

Application Deadline

(Rolling admissions, contact us for late availability)

October 31

Cost (subject to change)

Tuition, room and board, travel insurance,
and in-country travel \$2,800
UMassAmherst credit included

Faculty

Ousmane Aly Pame, Ph.D., English, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal

In addition to directing the GEN EcoYoff Living & Learning Center, Pame is the director of Living Routes' Senegal programs, and a professor of translation and English civilization and literature at Cheikh Anta Diop University. He has also taught French and Senegalese literature in the Department of French at Exeter University (UK) and has worked with several U.S. universities coordinating study abroad programs in Dakar.

Oumar Diene, Ph.D. (ABD) and M.A., Geography, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal

Diene is the assistant director of the Living Routes programs and the Living and Learning Center at Yoff, and is Secretary General of the Global Ecovillage Network in Senegal. Diene has worked extensively in development projects in areas including permaculture, ecotourism and renewable energies. He is currently completing his doctoral thesis on the impacts of modernization in the former village of Yoff.

Ismael Diallo, M.S., Geography, Fondation Universitaire Luxembourgeoise (FUL), Belgium

Diallo is completing a combined Ph.D. at the University of Dakar and FUL program in hydrology and natural resource management. He is president of the Global Ecovillage Network - Senegal and is a specialist in community protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Diallo also serves as the technical councilor at the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technology.

Course Themes

- The environment, infrastructure & habitat
- Assessing sustainable economic development needs
- Service learning to create sustainable change
- Economy and food security
- Populations, health, and nutrition
- French conversation skills

