Course Description
This class will focus on learning the basic drum techniques and rhythms of Senegal, West Africa. With an emphasis on Sabar and Saouruba, students will explore rhythms from Dakar, the capital of Senegal, to Casamance, a rural village in south Senegal. Students will learn to play on authentic drums and will accompany dancers, learning the give and take between drummer and dancer that is inherent to the musical culture of West African. The course will culminate with a live performance, including both drummers and dancers.

Course Objectives
At the successful completion of the course, you should be able to demonstrate:

• A knowledge of techniques used in Senegalese drumming
• The ability to recognize specific rhythms and the separate parts of that rhythm
• The ability to play the various parts of the rhythms studied in class
• Knowledge of the history of various Senegalese rhythms and their accompanying dance forms

Requirements
• Attendance: Regular attendance is necessary for successful learning in this course.
• Participation: You are expected to arrive on time, get set up to drum, and be prepared to participate fully in class exercises, explorations and discussions.
• Assignments: You will be expected to contribute some time each week outside of class, practicing rhythms learned in class and researching the music and dance of Senegal. At the midpoint and end of the semester you will be asked to submit a 2-3 page written reflection on your learning and participation in class.

Attendance Policy:
• You must be present consistently to succeed in this class. However, you are allowed up to two absences for illness, injury, family emergencies, religious observance, etc.
• Each absence beyond the initial two will drop your final grade by a number of points (4) equal to the percentage of class time missed, and NO CREDIT will be given for the course if more than 7 classes are missed.
• A limited number of absences may be made up at the discretion of the instructor.

Sitting Out:
• You may sit out twice without consequences. After that, every two sit-outs equals an absence.
Tardiness:
• Please arrive on time for all classes. Three late arrivals will be considered equivalent to one absence.

Assignments:
• Practice rhythms between classes and come to class prepared to play the rhythms learned in the previous class
• Watch videos posted on Courses, research history of drumming and dance in Senegal, and submit written responses
• Participate in the Dance Program end-of-semester showing, Dec. 7 and 8 at 7:30pm
• Evaluate your own work in class at the mid-point and the end of the semester. Due: Oct. 7 and Dec. 9

Grading:

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<tr>
<td>Quality of Participation</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Personal Progress</td>
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<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
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This syllabus is subject to modification by the instructor at any point during the semester.