

Structure of Wolof

LIN 4930/6571 . SSA 4930 . Fall 2020 . Synchronous Online*

***For more details please see the Canvas page for this course**

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Hours: Wednesdays: 9:30-11:30 and by appointment (may be subject to change)

Description

This course is an introduction to the structure of Wolof, an Atlantic language of the Niger-Congo family spoken primarily in Senegal, The Gambia, and Mauritania in West Africa.

Objectives

The specific objectives of this course are:

- To gain an understanding of the structural features of Wolof
- To be able to analyze various aspects of Wolof grammatical structure, ranging from the representation of Wolof phonemes to clause structure
- To identify aspects of Wolof grammar that are pertinent to linguistic theory and those that require more research
- To gain experience in presenting oral and written arguments about language structure
- To develop a deeper understanding of the structure of human language

Readings (all available electronically, mostly on Canvas)

There is no comprehensive modern grammar of Wolof. The following grammatical sketch will form the backbone of our course readings, to be supplemented by articles and handouts on different aspects of Wolof grammar:

Robert, Stéphane. To appear. Wolof: A grammatical sketch. In Friederike Lüpke, ed. *The Oxford Guide to the Atlantic Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Assignments

It is your responsibility to do all the readings for this class, complete assigned discussion posts, and come prepared to answer questions about them, discuss them, and ask questions about points that you would like clarification on.

Grades

Grades will be based on the following work: %

Class participation and presentations 30

Short papers (4) 40

Final project 30

Total 100

The assignment of a final letter grade will be based on the following scale:

A 94-100	B 84-87	C 74-77	D 64-70
A- 90-94	B- 80-84	C- 70-74	D- 61-64
B+ 87-90	C+ 77-80	D+ 67-70	E Below 61

A note on participation, class involvement, and classroom culture

The virtual classroom is where we will accomplish much of our work this semester and you are expected to be a contributing member of our classroom community. This means that attendance and preparation are of paramount importance. Although you do not earn points simply by attending class, unexcused absences (more than 3 during the semester) or repeated tardiness will result in a lowered grade. You must complete all assignments and readings in a timely fashion, ie: by the beginning of the week for which readings are assigned, and come to class informed and prepared to discuss the topic of the day. Please make sure that your cellphones are turned off before class starts. Mutual respect for class members is expected at all times in order to ensure a positive learning environment for a productive and enjoyable semester.

Academic honesty

Students are expected to adhere to UF's honor code at all times. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Students with disabilities

The Disability Resource Center DRCAccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu helps to provide an accessible learning environment for all by providing support services and facilitating accommodations, which may vary from course to course. Once registered with DRC, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Schedule of topics, readings and assignments (may be modified by the instructor to suit the needs of the class)

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
INTRODUCTION TO WOLOF			
Tuesday 9/1	Introduction Situating Wolof	Mc Laughlin. 2008. The ascent of Wolof as an urban vernacular and national lingua franca. In Vigouroux & Mufwene. <i>Globalization and language vitality</i> . Lüpke & Storch. 2013.	
Thursday 9/3	Writing Wolof	Robert, Stéphane. §1.1 Lüpke & Bao-Diop 2014. Beneath the surface? Contemporary <i>ajami</i> writing in West Africa, exemplified through <i>wolofal</i> .	
PHONETICS & PHONOLOGY			
Tuesday 9/8	Wolof phonemic inventory	Robert, Stéphane. 1.2, 1.3	
Thursday 9/10	Syllable structure	Robert, Stéphane 1.5 Ka, Omar. 1988. Wolof syllable structure: evidence from a secret code. https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED309630.pdf	Short paper 1 due
Tuesday 9/15	Gemination, consonant mutation	Robert, Stéphane. 1.4 Bell, Arthur J. 2003. Gemination, degemination and moraic structure in Wolof.	
Thursday	ATR harmony	Ka, Omar. (TBA)	

9/17		Pulleyblank, Douglas. 1996. Neutral vowels in Optimality Theory: A comparison of Yoruba and Wolof (Sy, Marième I. 2006. Vowel harmony in Wolof loanwords.)	
Tuesday 9/22	Unresolved issues		
MORPHOLOGY & SYNTAX			
Thursday 9/24	Word formation processes	Robert, Stéphane. 2 (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)	Short paper 2 due
Tuesday 9/29	Lexical categories	Mc Laughlin. 2004. Is there an adjective class in Wolof?	
Thursday 10/1	Noun classes	Mc Laughlin, Fiona. 1997. Noun classification in Wolof: when affixes are not renewed. Robert, Stéphane 3.1	
Tuesday 10/6	Noun class agreement	Robert, Stéphane. 3.2, 3.3	
Thursday 10/8	Derivation and verbal extensions	Robert, Stéphane. 4 (4.1, 4.2)	
Tuesday 10/13	Unresolved issues		Short paper 3 due
Thursday 10/15	The verb phrase	Robert, Stéphane. 5.1, 5.2.1	
Tuesday 10/20	Tense and aspect	Robert, Stéphane. 5.2.3	
Thursday 10/22	Verbal system	Robert, Stéphane. 5.2.4, 5.2.5	
MORPHOLOGY of AFRICAN LANGUAGES			
Tuesday 10/27	Verbal system	Robert, Stéphane. 5.3	
Thursday 10/29	Information structure	Robert, Stéphane. 6.1	
Tuesday 11/3	Prosody	Robert, Stéphane & Annie Riailand. 2001. The intonational system of Wolof	
Thursday 11/5	Basic clause structure	Robert, Stéphane. 6.2	
Tuesday 11/10	Unresolved issues		
Thursday 11/12	Clause structure	Torrence, Harold. 2013. The clause structure of Wolof: Insights into the Left Periphery (excerpts)	Short paper 4 due
SYNTAX of AFRICAN LANGUAGES			
Tuesday 11/17	Clause structure	Torrence, Harold. 2013. The clause structure of Wolof: Insights into the Left Periphery (excerpts)	
Thursday	No class	African Studies Association Conference	

11/19			
Tuesday 11/24	Presentation of paper topics		Presentation
Thursday 11/26	No class	Thanksgiving	
Tuesday 12/1	Consultation		
Thursday 12/3	Paper discussions		
Tuesday 12/8	Paper discussions		Final paper due December 17