What is the role of culture in articulating local and global issues? How do writers, artists, and filmmakers deploy their craft to critique and affect change on their social or political realities? What can we learn from these cultural practitioners about our own worlds, and our own voices? In this Problems Without Passports research course, we will go out in the field in Dakar, Senegal to meet with writers, artists, and cultural dignitaries, tour cultural sites and museums, and immerse ourselves in Dakarois life to answer these questions—and more.

Because this course means to be interdisciplinary and diverse, students will be encouraged to follow their own research interests throughout the various modules of the syllabus, yet all through the lens of culture and more specifically, literature. Students can pursue, among other topics: postcolonial politics; women’s rights; education; social justice; health; disability; immigration. The curriculum is student-centered, and each student will be expected to develop his or her own path through the course material, culminating in an online multimedia research project.

**Detailed Program Info**

**Course** 4-Units; French major/minor or elective credit. No pre-req, but students should have a good knowledge of French, as course is taught in French. Students will also learn some Wolof, the most widely-spoken national language of Senegal.

Course material is culled from readings, discussions, and most importantly, daily in-the-field research. Course culminates in an online multimedia research project compiled of text, audio and video files, and images.

**Class Dates** June 4 - 8 (USC) + June 9 – 30 (Dakar, Senegal)

**Enrollment** In Fall and early Spring semesters, students will meet with Dr. Van Dam individually to discuss his/her interest in the class, background, and personal research interests. Once French level is assessed, students may submit an application. Once accepted, students are given D-Clearance to register for the class starting in early Spring. The class will meet as a group in Spring semester for a basic orientation and prep. Throughout Spring semester, Dr. Van Dam will help each student to develop and fine-tune an individualized research project.

**Costs (est.)** 4-Unit tuition: $7200 (ask about financial aid/scholarships and SHURE funding!)
RT airfare to Dakar from LAX: $1500 - $2000
3-weeks lodging* in Dakar at Hotel Nina: $900 (double-occupancy, breakfast included)
Extra expenses: $600 (additional meals, books, souvenirs, etc)
$3000 SHURE Funding is available, as well as other funding (see website)
*Please note: Students are responsible for securing their own lodging at USC in first week of program.

**Int’l Travel** USC requires students to be safe and informed when traveling internationally. All information and required forms are posted on the course website.

For more information, please contact Julie Van Dam, Program Director at julie.vandam@usc.edu