My Project

Education abroad trip to Senegal, a country in West Africa, for the month of May. Students studied West African and African American culture.

I’m passionate about social justice and intercultural communication, so I chose to study in Senegal because of the heavy focus on gaining an understanding into West African culture.

The study of African culture in a predominately Muslim country gave me insight into some of the most polarized communities within the United States and a greater understanding of the lasting effects of colonization in western Africa.

Senegal Facts

Senegal is a country in West Africa.

Languages spoken: Wolof and French. Wolof is the native language and students are taught French in school very early. Later on around age 12 students begin to learn English in school.

Religions: The country is 95% Muslim, 5% Christian, 100% animistic. The country is incredibly tolerant of other religions and Christians and Muslims live together in peace.

Government: Democracy. Senegal’s government is stable and the country is incredibly peaceful.

Excursions

Our days consisted of lessons in Wolof, Gender, Religion, Hip Hop, and excursions to some of the most beautiful places I’ve ever been.

Gorée Island – Largest Slave trading center on the West African coast

Saint-Louis – Capital of Saint- Louis Region

Touba – Holy city of Mouridism, location of the Great Mosque

Joal Fadiouth – Home to the Island of Shells

About the Trip

Dates: May 5th 2017 – June 2nd 2017

Typically a Maymester Education Abroad trip

Cost: ~3,500 USD – This includes your flight, meals, and accommodation for the trip

Course Credits: 3 credits from African American Studies, French, or International Relations for your major, minor, or General Education fulfillment

Personal Impact

As my first trip to an African country, it greatly shattered any misconceptions and false ideas I had about African countries and culture. I was able to learn about the effects of colonization and the differences in conceptions of race between African Americans and Africans.

While pursuing a degree in Computer Science with a minor in design, it is imperative for me to gain a greater understanding into the livelihood of a diverse number of communities and cultures. The experience studying in Senegal, allowed me to further grow my interest in using technology to address social justice.

Interested in Senegal

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Check out this cool video from our time in Senegal, courtesy of Re’maille Ferrel