



"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."
- Lao-Tzu



Senegal

Sustainable Development at EcoYoff

January term (3 weeks)

Explore the impact of global trends and policies on sustainable development in western Africa, where ancient heritage is still intact to a degree rarely found elsewhere.. Experience evolving models of community development in five Senegalese Ecovillages - communities striving to create cooperative lifestyles in harmony with their local environment.

In addition to formal classes and group seminars, each U.S. student will work with a local university student and apply participatory research methods to learning with and from Senegalese villagers in areas of common interest. Students will carry out brief field projects and build their French language skills as they study the complex relationship between humans, development needs, and the environment. While some French proficiency is preferred, English translation will always be available.



Course Themes

- ⚙️ Culture and Spirituality
- ⚙️ Economy and Food Security
- ⚙️ Populations, Health, and Nutrition
- ⚙️ Environment, Infrastructure and Habitat
- ⚙️ French language (optional)

Academic Credit and Program Dates

Earn 4 transferable credits through the University of Massachusetts - Amherst

Course: Sustainable Development in West Africa: Theory & Practice (ANTH 397A)

January term January 3-23 (approximate)

Field Study

The program will begin at the urban ecovillage of EcoYoff where you orient to Senegalese culture, get to know your Senegalese partners, and become proficient in tools similar to those used in a Participatory Action Research Search Conference. With new cultural and theoretical knowledge, students depart for a "time travel" tour of Senegalese Ecovillages, from ancient to modern conditions, beginning in the northern Sahel at an isolated traditional community and ending again at EcoYoff. In each Ecovillage, students enter into dialogue with villagers and participate in/observe appropriate activities in their areas of interest. Students live and study at the following Ecovillages:

Mboul, the former capital of the Cayor Kingdom, inhabited by artist and Griot descendents of the old kingdom, which thrives under pre-industrial conditions.

Popenguine, located in an ocean-side national park preserve, internationally known for successfully engaging village women's groups in protection and sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Ngaparou, site of an algae research center where local villagers have incorporated as an Ecovillage and have created a Permaculture garden. Field excursions from Ngaparou may include the Domaine of Nianing resort, an animal preserve and demonstration center for integrated waste water and sewage recycling and Pointe Sarene Ecovillage where the group can observe experiments in preparing seaweed as a nutritional supplement and compost for rooting coconut palms.



Mbam, which is ethnically Serer, rather than Wolof, has been less influenced by modernization and is a cluster of hamlets in which women's groups carry out unique income generating activities in harmony with the environment.

EcoYoff is part of a 600 year-old fishing village in the urban commune of Yoff, Dakar. EcoYoff originated with a small group of volunteers at the Third International EcoCities and Ecovillages Conference in 1996.

Application Deadline (suggested, contact us for late availability)

November 1

Cost

Tuition, room and board, in-country travel \$2,000
College credit \$335

Faculty

Marian Zeitlin, Ph.D., Visiting Professor at Tufts University and Director of GEN EcoYoff Living & Learning Center, Senegal
Oumar Diene M.A., Doctoral student with the UNESCO Chari for Environmental Studies at the University of Dakar and Living and Learning Center Coordinator
Ismael Diallo, President of Global Ecovillage Network - Senegal and Permaculture specialist
A wide range of guest lecturers and local experts and professionals