CAS AH 383 Paris Architecture and Urbanism: From Monument to Urban Landscape
Credits: 4

Professor: Tricia Meehan
Schedule: 16 two-and-a-half-hour sessions over 7.5 weeks
Monday and Wednesday from 12:30-3:00 + 2 additional sessions
Office Hours: Monday, 3:00-3:30 and by appointment
Structure: 1/3 lectures, 2/3 visits
Contact: triciam@bu.edu

Course Material:
- A Course Reader with the required readings (to be purchased by each student).
- A Thematic Reader distributed in PDF form.
- Paris par Arrondissement, L’Indispensable, or equivalent, provided by BU Paris.
- Supplemental readings either in the Library or posted in Courseworks.
- A list of Parisian libraries with collections on architecture and urbanism accessible to students will be provided.

I. COURSE PRESENTATION AND OUTCOMES

This course traces the development of Parisian architecture and urbanism from the Roman period to the present, with a strong emphasis on its 19th and 20th century development of the city. It is designed to offer students a sense of the dynamic exchange between architectural space and form, urban development, the history of ideas and the larger economic, cultural and political history of Paris. The course is organized into five units of three classes, each unit opening with an introductory lecture at the BU Center followed by two visit-based classes. Assignments are cumulative, developed throughout the semester through a thematic prism.

Course objectives
- Identifying the forces shaping the architectural and urban discourse concerning Paris within international, national and local debates. This will include the identification of major tendencies as well as significant events, actors and projects.
- Understanding the evolution of policies and practices of the French State, the City of Paris and, more recently, the Île-de-France Region, which frame the increasing intervention of public authorities in the domain of the built environment.
- Initiating students to the analysis of architectural and urban spaces and forms, in particular through observation, visual analysis and first hand experience.
- Accompanying students in the development of their own critical understanding of Paris through theme based course work pursued throughout the semester.

Outcomes
- By the end of this course, students will be familiar with the major theoretical debates concerning the architecture and urbanism of Paris, as well as the key actors and objects animating these debates.
- They will be able to situate of the evolution of the mechanisms of the urban and architectural development of the city of Paris and its region with respect to the economic, cultural, intellectual, political and social history of France.
• They will have developed a basic capacity to visually analyze architecture and the city through the experimentations with methods of observation, visual analysis and first hand experience.
• The students will work towards a thematic interpretation of the significance of architectural and urban projects within the rich matrix of meanings generated in this temporally layered city.

II. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Nota: Reading
The required readings form the foundation of this course and are necessary preparation for in-class and on-site discussions, quizzes and the course work. There are, on average, the equivalent of 15-20 A-4 pages of required reading per class.

Attendance and Participation: 10%
This grade takes into account not only attendance and punctuality but also the quality of a student’s participation in class, meaning: attentiveness, enthusiasm, thoughtful contributions to discussions and progress.

Quizzes: 3 x 5% = 15%
There will be three, knowledge-based, unit-focused quizzes. Quizzes will be based on the readings as they relate to site visits and could include slide identifications asking for essential information (architect, patron/client, approximate date, function, innovative features, etc...), identification of actors, definition of terms and/or a short answer question.

Nota: Theme Based Coursework
Students will select one of five themes through which to focus their investigation of Paris during the semester, which will be developed in four cumulative steps. These themes – Conceptions of the City, Heritage, Infrastructure, Natural & Built Environment, Public Realm – will serve as a unifying lens through which to mark changes in urbanism and architecture across the city’s 2,000-year history.

Building Visit Presentation: 10%
Students will prepare, in groups of two, the visit of one building or site. The basic presentation should include three elements: 1) the historical context in which the building or site was constructed; 2) the potential thematic significance of the building or site; 3) the start of a visual analysis, 4) three discussion questions aiming to deepen the visual analysis through a group discussion. Presentation + discussion: 10-15 minutes.

Thematic Dossier 1: 25%
Thematic Dossier 1 will explore the evolution of Paris through the selected themes, focused on the first three units, Units 1-3. The Thematic Dossier should build upon readings, classes, visits and on-site presentations combining the thematic reflection with visual analysis, through a comparative study of three key sites, texts, or other phenomenon, one from each unit. Required and supplemental readings will provide the common starting point. Students may reference other sources as needed. The dossier should include a typed essay, 4-5 pages long, with up to 3 additional pages of images. It must have proper footnoting and a bibliography.

Round Table Presentation 15%
The Round Table Presentations are aimed at moving towards the development and finalization of Thematic Dossier 2, and is focused on Units 4-5. Individual presentations of 5-6 minutes
should communicate the envisioned dossier structure and a synthetic overview of the analysis and thematic interpretations in development. Students will be grouped in panels of 2 or 3, according to the resonances between either their themes or case studies. Presentations will be consecutive, followed by a common question/discussion period in which all students are expected to participate.

**Thematic Dossier 2: 25%**

Thematic Dossier 2, which fulfills the final exam requirement, extends the reflection developed in Thematic Dossier 1, through an exploration of the 20th century evolution of Paris through two key sites, texts, or other phenomenon, one from each unit, Units 4 and 5. The objective is to shed light on the significance of the recent past in the long-term evolution of Paris. Thematic Dossier 2 should combine the thematic reflection with visual analysis. Required and supplemental readings will provide the common starting point. Students may reference other sources as needed. The dossier should include a typed essay, 3-4 pages long, with up to 2 additional pages of images. It must have proper footnoting and a bibliography.

**Research Methods**

There is not a single, methodological formula for analyzing architecture or the city. Both are complex phenomena that can be analyzed and understood from a multiplicity of points of view (formal, representational, social, economic, philosophical, political, technical, biological, ethnographical, anthropological, etc...). It will be necessary to mobilize critical thinking skills in order to develop a methodological approach that brings together each student’s theme, case studies, interests and experiences in a strategic, structured analysis. For critical thinking skills see: Sylvan Barnet, Hugo Bedau and John O’Hara, *Critical Thinking, Reading and Writing: A Brief Guide to Argument*, 9th edition, Boston: Bedford/St Martin’s Press, 2016 [1993].

Our on site visits will experiment with observation, visual analysis and first hand experience, building upon notions mobilized in these works:

  - Public Space, Public Life: An Interaction; Who, What, Where?; Counting, Mapping, Tracking and Other Tools; Public Life Studies.
  - City Form: Designing the Paths, Design of Other Elements, Form Qualities, The Sense of the Whole, Metropolitan Form.
  - Phenomena of Perception; Order and Disorder; Measure and Balance; Fabric and Object; Space; Light and Shade; Places.

**Attendance Policy**

1 absence (class session or activity) = -1 point on the overall grade
4 or more unexcused absences = grade of F for the course
Missed assignment or test = grade of 0 for the assignment
Plagiarism on an assignment = grade of 0 for the assignment

NB: Excused absences must be justified by a doctor’s note or a scheduled internship interview.
BU Plagiarism Policy
All students are responsible for having read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on the examinations or for plagiarism may be ‘expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the dean.’ Read the full Academic Conduct Code online at:
http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/.

Grading Scale

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<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>77-79.5</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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III. Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT 1</th>
<th>Topics and Readings</th>
<th>Assignments and Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>1. Course Intro</td>
<td>Unit 1 Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. The Origins of Paris</td>
<td>Due: Theme Selection</td>
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<td>3. Medieval Paris: The City as Cosmos</td>
<td>Due: Building Visit</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Visit: On The Traces of Roman &amp; Merovingian Paris</td>
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<td>Due: Building Visit Presentation Choice</td>
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<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Visit: The Île-de-la-Cité: The Heart of a Kingdom</td>
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<td>UNIT 2</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
<td>1. Classicism à la française: City and Nation</td>
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<td>2. Grand siècle &amp; Enlightenment: The Urban Set Piece</td>
<td>Unit 1 Quiz</td>
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### Session 5
**Visit:** Royal Urbanism and the Rise of the Marais

**Required Reading:**

### Session 6
**Visit:** The Louvre Quarter: A New Administrative Center for the City

**Required Reading:**

### UNIT 3

#### Session 7
**1. From Revolution to the Second Empire: The City as a Work of Art**

**Required Reading:**

#### Session 8
**Visit:** Urbanity & Commerce: Boulevards & Arcades

**Required Reading:**

#### Session 9
**Visit:** The Opera Quarter: Modernity & Monumentality

**Required Reading:**

### UNIT 4

#### Session 10
**1. Misery and Opulence: Two Tales of A Metropolis**

**Required Reading:**

#### Session 11
**Visit:** Western Paris: The Design of Modern Life

**Required Reading:**

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| Session 12 | Visit: Eastern Paris – Renewing the Fringe: Cités jardins and Habitations à bon marché |
| Required Reading: |

UNIT 5

| Session 13 | 1. Post-War Paris: Renewing the Center |
| 2. Affirming the Cultural Quotient |
| 3. Deindustrialization and the Livable City |
| Required Reading: |

| Session 14 | Visit: Rethinking the Center: Plateau Beaubourg and Les Halles |
| Required Reading: |

| Session 15 | Visit: ZAC Stories: Bercy and Massena |
| Required Reading: |

| Session 16 | Roundtable Presentations: Thematic Dossier 2 Development |

Exam Session

Due: Thematic Dossier 2

IV. FURTHER READING

Websites:
Batiparis, http://www.comeetie.fr/galerie/BatiParis/#12/48.8589/2.3491 (interactive map showing when each parcel was built on)

History:


**Theory**


*The professor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus*