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

Professor: Gabriel Wick
Schedule: 16 two-and-a-half-hour sessions over 7.5 weeks
Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-12:30 + 2 additional sessions
Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:30-14:30 by appointment
Structure: 1/3 lectures, 2/3 visits
Contact: gwick@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. It is designed to offer students a sense of the dynamic exchange between the built environment, society and culture, and an introduction to the 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.

Outcomes
By the end of this course, students will have developed:

- approaches to the analysis of buildings and cities, as well as the essential technical terminology of the fields of architecture and urbanism.
- an understanding of the key moments and trends in the history of French architecture and urbanism.
- an understanding of the dynamics that have driven the development of the city historically, and that continue to shape it today.
- an understanding of the role that the competing interests of local and national authorities and various actors and stakeholders play in shaping the urban environment.
- an understanding of key contemporary issues in architecture and urban design – notably, how the design of the built environment can promote social equality, respond to environmental imperatives and respect and accommodate established communities and historic urban forms.
- their own critical understanding of Paris and its historical development through theme based course work.
II. ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

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.

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 –Representations of Power, Infrastructure and Sanitation, Topography and natural phenomena, Public open space – 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: 15%
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: 30%
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.

Thematic Dossier 2: 30%
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:

  - 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 in class, a required activity or in-class presentation | =-1 point on your final grade |
| More than 3 unexcused absences | = F for the course |
| Unsubmitted written work Absence for a presentation or exam Plagiarism | = F (0 points) for the assignment in question |

*Excused absences = absence for illness excused by the certificate of a French doctor or an internship interview. Documentation to be submitted to Renée the day following the absence.

Tardiness
- The professor reserves the right to not admit a tardy student to class or to count a tardy arrival as either a half or whole unexcused absence.
- Late arrivals to class will impact the class participation grade.
- Late submission of written work will entail a penalty on the assignment grade.
  Written work submitted more than a week late will not receive credit (grade =F).

Plagiarism – Official BU 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 conversion (out of 100)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE</th>
<th>GRADES FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS/ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A+ = 97, B+ = 89,5, C+/B- = 79,5, D+/C- = 69,5</td>
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<td>90-92,5</td>
<td>A = 97, B = 88, C+ = 78, D+ = 68</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89,5</td>
<td>A = 95, B = 85, C = 75, D = 65</td>
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<td>83-86,5</td>
<td>A/ - = 92,5, B/- = 82,5, C/- = 72,5, D/- = 62,5</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82,5</td>
<td>A- = 91, B- = 81, C- = 71, D- = 61</td>
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<tr>
<td>79,5-0</td>
<td>A-/B+ = 89,5, B-/C+ = 79,5, C-/D+ = 69,5, F = 55</td>
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III. Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics and Readings</th>
<th>Assignments and Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UNIT 1</strong></td>
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**Session 1**
09/01/17

1. Course Intro
2. The Origins of Paris
3. Medieval Paris: The City as Cosmos

**Required Reading:**

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<tr>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th>09/05/17</th>
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<tr>
<td>Visit: On The Traces of Roman &amp; Merovingian Paris</td>
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**Required Reading:**

Due: Theme Selection
Due: Building Visit Presentation Choice

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<tr>
<th>Session 3</th>
<th>09/07</th>
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<td>Visit: The Île-de-la-Cité: The Heart of a Kingdom</td>
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**Required Reading:**

**UNIT 2**

**Session 4**
09/12

1. Classicism à la française: City and Nation
2. *Grand siècle* & Enlightenment: The Urban Set Piece

**Required Reading:**

**Session 5**
09/14

Visit: Royal Urbanism and the Rise of the Marais

**Required Reading:**

Unit 1 Quiz
### UNIT 3

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session 7</th>
<th>09/21</th>
<th>1. From Revolution to the Second Empire: The City as a Work of Art</th>
<th>Unit 2 Quiz</th>
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<tr>
<th>Session 8</th>
<th>09/22</th>
<th>Visit: Urbanity &amp; Commerce: Boulevards &amp; Arcades</th>
<th>Due: Thematic Dossier 1 Abstract</th>
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<th>Session 9</th>
<th>09/26</th>
<th>Visit: The Opera Quarter: Modernity &amp; Monumentality</th>
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### UNIT 4

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<tr>
<th>Session 10</th>
<th>09/28</th>
<th>1. Misery and Opulence: Two Tales of A Metropolis</th>
<th>Due: Thematic Dossier 1</th>
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<th>Session 11</th>
<th>10/03</th>
<th>Visit: Western Paris: The Design of Modern Life</th>
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<th>Session 12</th>
<th>10/05</th>
<th>Visit: Eastern Paris – Renewing the Fringe: <em>Cités jardins and Habitations à bon marché</em></th>
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### UNIT 5

| Session 13 10/10 | 1. Post-War Paris: Renewing the Center  
2. Affirming the Cultural Quotient  
3. Deindustrialization and the Livable City |
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<td><strong>Quiz Unit 4</strong></td>
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<th>Session 14 10/12</th>
<th>Visit: Rethinking the Center: Plateau Beaubourg and Les Halles</th>
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<td><strong>Due:</strong> Thematic Dossier 2 Abstract</td>
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<th>Session 15 10/17</th>
<th>Visit: ZAC Stories: Bercy and Massena</th>
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<th>Session 16 10/19</th>
<th>Thematic Dossier 2 Development</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exam Session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Due:</strong> Thematic Dossier 2</td>
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**Theory**


