

CAS LF 342 Paris Aujourd'hui : French Society & Civilization through the performing arts(4 credits)

Instructor: Elisabeth MONTFORT-SIEWERT & Hanadi SOBH

Books and materials: Texts of current plays; CD of a variety of French songs

Paris Aujourd'hui focuses on the politics of culture, in one of the richest cultural capitals in all of Europe. You will get to know the Parisian cultural scene through studying its theatrical, cinematographic & musical offerings during the current semester. It calls for critical analysis in the performing arts, with the purpose of learning more about French Society & Civilization.

Students will prepare an oral brief on a play excerpt and debates will be held in regards to the songs lyrics and French movies.

Theater

Read two plays, summarize them, see them, learn how to critique them.

- *La Cantatrice chauve* by Eugène Ionesco
- *Un air de famille* d'Agnès Jaoui et Jean-Pierre Bacri

Past selections have included : *Le menteur* de Corneille, *Les Directeurs* de Daniel Besse; *Théâtre sans animaux* de Jean-Michel Ribes ; *La touche étoile* de Gilles Dyrek et la Cie Improglio (2003) ; *Après la pluie* de Sergi Belbel; *Un air de Famille* de Agnès Jaoui et Jean-Pierre Bacri ; *Reste-t-il des gens civilisés à Paris?* de Bontemps, Carrere, Legendre, Marcho, Milleron & Plisson, *Le Tartuffe* de Molière, *Cyrano de Bergerac* d'Edmond Rostand, *Le Misanthrope* de Molière.

Film

Three recent films releases; summarize critical articles about the films, summarize them & formulate an opinion.

This course being focused as much as possible on the latest movies and the fall agenda for film releases in Paris not being available yet, the following are examples of movies for the summer 2009 program.

- *La journée de la jupe* by Jean-Paul Lilienfeld ;
- *Entre les murs* by Laurent Cantet ;
- *Tellement proches* by Eric Toledano & Olivier Nakache;

Music

A CD is burned each semester with different song choices. A comprehensive brochure with the song lyrics & related exercises is also distributed. It will include songs from famous artists from the French scene such as: Alain Souchon, Thomas Dutronc, Bénabar, Grand Corps Malade, Serge Gainsbourg, Francis Cabrel, Diam's, Zazie, and Jacques Dutronc

Grading:

Theater (50%)		Film & Music (50%)	
Class participation	12.5%	Class participation	12.5%
Oral presentation	12.5%	Debates	12.5%
Midterm	12.5%	Midterm	12.5%
Final	12.5%	Final	12.5%