

CAS LF 343 *La France à Paris: Paris in literature (Four credits)*

Instructor: Lionel RUFFEL

Books and materials: published anthology of texts on Paris by a wide range of authors (*Le Goût de Paris*), a time-line booklet on the urban and cultural history of Paris (*Paristyles: mutations de Paris depuis 2000 ans dans son urbanisme et son architecture*), and a small set of additional texts.

This multidisciplinary course will cover a broad sampling of literary cameos. Using the city of Paris as the unique text, students will read its monuments and buildings and interpret works of fiction and non-fiction. Walking through the city (physically and textually), students will trace the history and culture of France in Paris. We shall begin with Walter Benjamin's notion of "Paris, capital of the nineteenth history," and move forward and backward in time to achieve a cross-dimensional sense of this peerless city.

This course aims to show the students not only how to engage critically with and interpret textual material, but also how to read and analyze the physical space surrounding them. In combining methods of reading literature, art and architecture, the students will learn how to interpret across disciplines. In addition, this course will address the question of how the culture and history that surround us are constructed by the critical choices that we make and the ways in which we observe them.

Visits: Two *flâneries* (a consecrated term roughly equivalent to strolling) illustrate the texts: the "passages" (Benjamin) behind the Palais Royal; the Montmartre district illustrating "Paris Bohème" and "Paris Rouge". One visit: Orsay Museum, to discover modern masterpieces. In sets of two, students will then select two itineraries immortalized in texts found in our anthology, one for a written assignment, the other for an oral exposé.

Selected texts from:

Yannic Haenel, *Evoluer parmi les avalanches*

Louis Sébastien Mercier, *Tableau de Paris*

Patrick Modiano, *Accident nocturne*

Elémir Bourges, *Les oiseaux s'envolent et les fleurs meurent*

Gustave Flaubert, *Bouvard et Pécuchet*

Frédéric Berthet, *Le Retour de Bouvard et Pécuchet*

Philippe Soupault, *Les Dernières nuits de Paris*

Joris-Karl Huysmans, *Croquis de Paris, La Bièvre*

Michèle Bernstein, *Le Square des Missions étrangères*

Victor Hugo, *Choses vues* (obsèques de Chateaubriand)

Maurice Barrès, *Les Déracinés* (obsèques de Victor Hugo)

Camille Mauclair, *Le Soleil des morts*

Joseph Deilteil, *Les Chats de Paris*

Emile Zola, *Paris*

Honoré de Balzac, *Le Père Goriot*

Jacques Réda, *La Liberté des rues*

Jacques Roubaud, *L'Invitation au voyage*

Jean Tardieu, *La Place de la Concorde*

Charles Baudelaire, *Le Cygne*

Jean Rolin, *Zone*

Julien Green, *Paris*

Grading:

Participation 15%

Oral exposé 20%

Written Essay 20%

Midterm 20%

Final

25%