AH383 Paris Architecture and Urbanism: From Monument to Urban Landscape

Credits: 4

Professor: Tricia Meehan
Schedule: 10 sessions, 9am-1pm. See calendar for days. Exceptions for the hours: Mon. 19 June, 1:00-5:30 (long lecture + visit) & Wed. 21 June, 9:30-1:00 (visit only)
Office Hours: Monday, 1:00-1:30 and by appointment
Structure: 1/3 lecture, 2/3 visit
Contact: triciam@bu.edu

Course Material:
- A Course Reader with the required readings (to be purchased by each student).
- Paris par Arrondissement, L'Indispensable, or equivalent, provided by BU Paris.
- Thematic Readings accessible on our course website.
- Supplemental readings accessible either in the Library or on our course website.
- A list of Parisian libraries with pertinent collections 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 four units of either two or three classes, each unit opening with a lecture at the BU Center and the remaining unit classes being visits. 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 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 capacity to visually analyze architecture and the city through methods of observation, formal 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 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. Students will be required once during the semester to prepare discussion questions based on the readings for a class and its associated visit.

Quizzes: 2 quizzes factored together = 10%
There will be two, 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. These themes – Conceptions of the City, Heritage, Infrastructure, Natural & Built Environment, Public Realm, Urban Dwelling – will serve as a unifying lens through which to mark changes in urbanism and architecture across the city’s 2,000-year history.

Thematic Dossier 1: 35%
Thematic Dossier 1 will explore the evolution of Paris through the selected theme, focused on Units 1 & 2. The Thematic Dossier should build upon readings, classes and visits combining the thematic reflection with visual analysis, through a comparative study of two key sites, texts, or other phenomenon, one from each unit. Required and supplemental readings will provide the common starting point, and students must select at least 2 supplemental readings and one thematic reading in order to ground their thinking in existing debates. Students may reference other sources as needed. The dossier should include a typed 4-5 page essay with up to 3 additional pages of images. It must have proper footnoting and a bibliography.

Thematic Dossier 2: 45%
Thematic Dossier 2, focused on Units 3 & 4, extends the reflection of Thematic Dossier 1, seeking to situate late 19th to early 21st century developments in the context of Paris’s 2000+ year history. The Thematic Dossier should build upon readings, classes and visits combining the thematic reflection with visual analysis, through a comparative study of two key sites, texts, or other phenomenon, one from each unit. Required and supplemental readings will provide the common starting point, and students must select at least 2 supplemental readings and one thematic reading in order to ground their thinking in existing debates. Students may reference other sources as needed. The dossier should include a typed 4-5 page essay with up to 3 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...). Students will need to mobilize critical thinking skills in order to develop their own methodological approach bringing together each their 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, a required activity or in-class presentation = -1 point on the overall 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.

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 a whole unexcused absence.
Late arrival will impact the class participation grade.
Late submission or written work will entail a penalty on the assignment grade.
Written work submitted more than a week late will not receive credit (grade = F).

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/.
### III. Calendar

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<th>UNIT 1</th>
<th>Assignments and Activities</th>
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<td><strong>Topics and Readings</strong></td>
<td>Distribution of Dates for Discussion Questions</td>
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<td>* In BU Paris Library / **BU ebray / ***Internet</td>
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#### Session 1

**Lecture:** Course Intro + The Origins of Paris (prehistory-987)

**Visit:** On The Traces of Roman, Merovingian & Carolingian Paris

**Itinerary:** Archeological Crypt [11:00], Mont Sainte Généviève, Arènes de Lutèces

**Required Reading:**

**Supplemental Reading:**

#### Session 2

**Lecture:** Medieval Paris: The City as Cosmos (987-1498)

**Visit:** The Île-de-la-Cité: The Heart of a Kingdom

**Itinerary:** Notre-Dame de Paris and Sainte-Chapelle [12:30]

**Required Reading:**

**Supplemental Reading:**

**Due: Theme Selection**
### Session 3
**Fri. 9 June**

**Lecture:** Classicism à la française: City and Nation (1498-1682)
**Visit:** Royal Urbanism and the Rise of the Marais

**Itinerary:** Place des Vosges, Saint Paul-Saint Louis, Guimard Synagogue, Hôtels particuliers, Operational îlot no. 1

**Required Reading:**

**Supplemental Reading:**


### UNIT 2

### Session 4
**Mon. 12 June**

**Lecture:** From the Grand siècle to the Enlightenment: Towards an Urban Landscape (1682-1789)
**Visit:** The Louvre Quarter: A New Administrative Center for the City

**Itinerary:** Collège de Quatre nations, Louvre’s Cour carré, Rue de Rivoli, Palais Royal

**Required Reading:**

**Supplemental Reading – Grand siècle:**


**Supplemental Reading – Enlightenment**


### Session 5
**Wed. 14 June**

**Lecture:** From Revolution to Second Empire: The City as a Work of Art (1789-1870)
**Visit:** Modernity & Monumentality

**Itinerary:** La Bourse, rue des Colonnes, Panorama Arcade, Grands Boulevards, Opera Garnier [12:00]

**NOTE:**
Due Fri 16 June by noon:
Thematic Dossier 1.
Required Reading:

Supplemental Reading – Revolution, First Empire, Restoration:

Supplemental Reading – Second Empire:

UNIT 3
Session 6 Mon. 19 June
Please note that class is from 1:00pm-5:30pm.
Lecture: Opulence & Misery: Two Tales of A Metropolis
Visit: Western Paris – The Design of Modern Life
Itinerary: Housing-Guimard, Abraham, Le Corbusier (Villa La Roche [16:45])

Required Reading:

Supplemental Reading:
### Session 7
**Wed. 21 June**

**Please note that class is visit only, 9:30am-1:00pm.**

**Visit: Eastern Paris – Renewing the Fringe: Cités jardins and Habitations à bon marché**

**Meeting Point:** Porte de Lilas Metro (line 11) and Tram (T3b), corner of rue de Belleville and Blvd Sérurier, in front of McDonalds.

**Itinerary:** Cité Jardin Pré-Saint-Gervais and social housing around the Reservoir de Lilas and the Butte du Chapeau Rouge.

**Required Reading:**


**Supplemental Reading:**


### Session 8
**Friday 23 June**

**Lecture:** Post-War Paris: Renewing the Center

**Visit:** Rethinking the Center: The Marais, Plateau Beaubourg and Les Halles

**Required Reading:**


**Supplemental Reading:**


### UNIT 4

### Session 9
**Mon. 26 June**

**Lecture:** Affirming the Cultural Quotient

**Visit:** The *Grands projets and the rebirth of the Canal d’Ourq*

**Itinerary:** Parc de la Villette, Cité de la Musique, Philharmonie de Paris, Cité des Sciences, Conservatoire

**Required Reading:**


**Supplemental Reading:**


**Unit 3 Quiz.**

Due: Abstract Thematic Dossier 2 by e-mail the day after Session 9
| Session 10 | Tue. 27 June | **Lecture: Contemporary Paris – Deindustrialization & the Livable City**  
**Visit: ZAC Stories: Bercy and Massena**  
**Itinerary:**  
**Bercy:** Ministry of Economy and Finances, Palais Omnisport Bercy, Housing, Maison du Cinéma (Gehry), Bercy Village, Bercy Park.  
**Massena:** Housing, Offices, Frigos, Grands Moulins, Jardins des Grandes Moulins  

**Required Reading:**  

**Supplemental Reading:**  

| Fri. 30 June | Thematic Dossier 2 due by 11:30pm, printed. | **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)

Books available in the BU Paris Academic Center Library:

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