**CAS IP XXX Postcolonial Paris: a cultural and political history of colonization and immigration in Paris (Four credits)**

**Instructor: Leyla DAKHLI**

**Introduction**

This course is built around two focal points: a journey of postcolonial Paris and an analysis of films as a witness to the often conflicting colonial memories in 20th century and modern day France. This course was designed as an introduction to colonial history and the history of immigration in France by interpreting a certain number of memory sites that enable us to understand the mark of what is called the era of “the Greatest France” in the metropolitan territory, the physical territory in the capital and also the mental territory.

It is also indicated by the presence of an immigrant population in a particular place: the colonial territory is a reservoir of labor for the metropolis that is associated with periods of economic boom in France. Bordering between these two faces of France and postcolonial Paris, we will try to understand what sort of culture could have emerged from this multifaceted contract between France and other lands, whether African or Asian. We will thus attempt to understand what institutional marks this history left behind: street names, memorial plaques. One class will be dedicated to the reconstruction of a violent colonial and Parisian event, one during the Algerian war: the rally of October 17, 1961, violently repressed by the police forces. We will try to understand how this event unfolded and how its memory (or its fall into oblivion) is transmitted – by an activist memory, then by a form of official acknowledgement.

This postcolonial history of Paris is a way to journey through more than a century of French history and to understand contemporary Paris. The classes will finish with debates around questions raised by certain activist groups in neighborhoods with strong immigrant populations: are these territories, still today, marks of colonization or of colonized territories?

The course will be completed with the following exercises: commentaries on historical works, texts or documents (maps, aerial photos) and analytical papers on films. The classes, will be lead by student oral presentations (commentaries on works and texts) that will give way to group discussions. Oral participation is essential.

**Lectures**

- Colonial Knowledge and Understanding Man, Parallel Journeys
- Film and Colonial Memories
- Orientalism: a post-colonial culture, an artistic trend
- The Colonial Society
- The Algerian War in Paris
- Wars and Representation
- From “Colonized” to “Muslim” & “Immigrant” – Representations and Silence
- Immigration: a parallel history / identification or identity?
- The immigrant labor-force – a social and immigration question
- The spatial question: the suburbs as “colonized” territory
- Integration?
• Movies: *Les maîtres fous*, *Le coup de torchon*, *La Bataille d’Alger*, *La 317ième section*, movies by director Abdellatif Kechiche

• Class visits: the Quai Branly museum, the Paris mosque, the National Museum of the History of Immigration

**Grading**

-- A 15-minute oral presentation consisting of a film critique which involves presenting the film in its context, explaining its approach and the way in which it renders an account of a history or of a historical episode.

-- A 10-minute oral presentation that analyzes a text or document.

-- An essay about a monument, neighborhood or symbol of the city of Paris analyzed for its postcolonial components along with a description of a small part of the city from the viewpoint of the influences of which it is composed.

| Participation in discussions and debates | 10% |
| Oral presentation / film critique       | 20% |
| Oral presentation and written copy      | 10% |
| Essay                                  | 30% |
| Final exam                             | 30% |

**Bibliography**


