**CAS LF 343 Paris in Literature (four credits)**  
**Instructor:** Hélène Marineau

**Introduction**  
This seminar offers a journey through the cultural and literary history of France, beginning in the year 1750 through the present day, around one city: Paris. Art was inspired by this city, but art also helped to construct the image of Paris.

Paris is much more than a simple frame for French art and literature. The city is often an active participant in these fields, a character, the metaphor of society in its entirety. Paris is the symbol of progress, in its most positive, but also negative, ways. Paris experienced a golden age when the city became, as stated by Walter Benjamin, the “capital of the 19th century.” It then became the place where all the great artists, philosophers and thinkers met to discuss and reflect on a new world.

In this way, the reality of Paris and the myth of Paris are superposed one on the other. It is this history we will study - cultural, political and social all at once. Throughout the classes, we will ask ourselves the following question: how is the artistic representation of a city shaped? To answer this question, we will study how the work of writers inspired by Paris interacts with our own image of the city. At the same time, we will examine the texts and the places that surround us. Thus, an important part of the course will be dedicated to group and individual visits, which will be accompanied by a body of work from authors who have written texts on Paris.

**Course Materials**  
Annie Ernaux, *La Vie extérieure*, Gallimard, Folio, 2000  
Packet of photocopied texts handed out at the beginning of the semester

Works for oral presentations:  
Emile Zola, *Paris*  
André Breton, *Nadja*  
Ernest Hemingway, *Paris est une fête*  
Patrick Modiano, *Dora Bruder*  
Georges Perec, *Tentative d’épuisement d’un lieu parisien*  
Jean Rolin, *Zones*  
Yannick Haenel, *Evoluer parmi les avalanches*

**Lectures**  
- Paris as a world capital  
- The myth(s) of Paris  
- Paris of the Revolutions - an in-depth reading of Parisian texts during the revolutions  
- Contemporary representations of the Revolution – reflections on *La Commune* by Peter Watkins  
- The Paris of Passages and Wanderers  
- Paris and Modernity - readings of poems by Baudelaire
- Paris of the Avant-Gardes and the Intellectuals
- Writing Paris Today - works of Annie Ernaux
- Other Views of the City
- Peripheries and Non-Places
- Contemporary Paris

Class visits
- Parisian Passages
- Montmartre and the Sacré Coeur
- The Latin Quarter

Grading
A short essay devoted to the personal discovery of a Paris neighborhood, approximately 3 pages, double spaced. The student must choose between two subjects, but each will include: 1) a place that the student will visit individually, 2) an excerpt from *La Vie extérieure* by Annie Ernaux that talks about the place, 3) one or two of the questions given in class.

A 20-minute group oral presentation based on a literary text indicated in the annex along with an individual visit to the location evoked in the text.

An in-class written exercise based on a poem analysis.

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Selective Bibliography