LT 340 PARIS IN 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY FRENCH LITERATURE
IES Abroad Paris French Studies

DESCRIPTION:
This course will allow students to compare and contrast their vision and experience of Paris with various literary works. Our objective is not only to compare the reality of Paris to its fictive elaboration, but also to understand the narrative and descriptive techniques that individual writers use to construct their personal representations of Paris. We will study the subject through three mediums: literary texts, active visiting of Parisian locations, and personal texts and memoir. The course will thus be organized into three parts:

1. Readings of extracts as well as completed works, which will allow us to engage with different themes associated with Paris
2. Guided written exercises, accompanied by assigned readings and Parisian outings
3. Presentations, discussions, with a focus on historical and thematic themes, songs and questions related to Paris

This course includes multiple Parisian visits: the homes of famous writers (Hugo, Balzac, Vian), exhibitions (Carnavalet Museum, Cité de l’architecture et du patrimoine), and outings in Paris (both group visits and individual student visits)

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French

PREREQUISITES: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
● Lectures
● Group work
● Student presentations
● Essay
● Discussions
● Written reports

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
● 3 written works - 20%
● Class presentation - 20%
● Written exercises and oral presentation - 20%
● Midterm exam - 20%
● Class journal - 20%

Midterm Exam
Questions based on coursework + an essay

Class Journal
To be maintained throughout the semester, which discusses student’s personal life in Paris as well as a discussion of readings based on Paris (10-20 pages):

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
● Analyze literary texts by associating the study of style with literary themes in order to construct an argument
● Discuss the major themes associated with the city of Paris in French literature
● Explain parallels between Parisian locations, their transpositions into literary works as well as a personal experience of respective locations
● Exhibit improved writing skills on themes indicated in the syllabus.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance is mandatory for all course meetings, including visits. Absences and lateness will affect your ability to master class content. In addition, your final grade will be lowered by 1/6 of a letter grade for each absence.

For example:
● Final grade : A.-
● 1 absence = A-, 2 absences = B+, 3 absences = B+, 4 absences = B ...

Being more than 15 minutes late to a course counts as an absence. 3 late arrivals (less than 15 minutes) count as an absence.

If a student misses more than 25% of class time, s/he will receive an F in the course.

Assignments and presentations missed because of absences will be given the grade of F.

When absences occur, students must inform their teacher and the French Studies Academic Coordinator as soon as possible (amilan@iesparis.org). In some instances (sickness with doctor’s note for example), absences may be excused. If a student believes that an absence should be excused, he or she must contact Scott, Seth or Alexandra.

CONTENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Assignments and Preparation</th>
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</table>
Preparation: Identify the major themes associated with Paris in each of the texts.  
Reading-Writing: First impressions of Paris, instructions |
Preparation: Identify the major themes associated with Paris in each of the texts.  
Reading-Writing: First impressions of Paris. |
| Session 4 | Guided readings of text 2 grouping: “The 14th arrondissement.” | Reading-Writing: Read Paris I, the facades. Take a photo of a Parisian building façade |
| Session 5 | Guided reading of text 3 grouping: “The Eiffel Tower.” | - To read: the entirety of the grouping.  
- Preparation: Identify the metaphors and comparisons used by writers to evoke the Eiffel Tower.  
- Reading-Writing: Read Paris I, the facades. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Session 6 | Guided Reading of Pierre Grassou.  
- Reading-Writing: Read Paris II, Memorial Plaques and other building inscriptions (art in the streets). Take a visible photo of a text found in the street and comment.  
- Class Visit: Boris Vian’s apartment. |
| Session 7 | Guided reading: Un lâche et de La Parure. | - To read: both short stories.  
- Preparation: Identify the characteristics of each Parisian.  
- Reading-Writing: Read Paris II, Memorial Plaques and other building inscriptions (art in the streets). |
| Session 8 | Guided reading: Les Tombales et de Le rendez-vous. | - To read: both short stories.  
- Preparation: Identify the characteristics of each Parisian.  
- Reading-Writing: Poetics and history: street names. Choose various street names on a map. Find the origin of these names and make a list according to a real or imagined story and write about what the list evokes for you personally. **Presentation:** Baudelaire, *A une passante.*  
- **Turn in 1st written assignment** |
| Session 9 | Guided reading of Jacques Damour. | - To read: Chapters 1 and 2. |
| Session 10 | Guided reading of Jacques Damour |  
|------------|---------------------------------|---  
|            | To read: Chapters 3-5.          |   
|            | Course: Zola et le naturalisme, Les Rougon-Macquart. |   
|            | Visit: Balzac's home.           |   

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<th>Session 11</th>
<th>Midterm</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Distribution of vocabulary list to look up for Brouillard.</td>
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<td>Visit the Montparnasse cemetery, write a text.</td>
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<td><strong>Turn in personal journal (first section) for review and advice</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>To read: <em>La Petite Bijou</em> and look up vocabulary for Brouillard.</td>
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| Session 12 | Guided reading of La Petite Bijou (p. 9-65) |  
|------------|--------------------------------------------|---  
|            | Preparation: Identify the Parisian locations, movements of the main character, and the types of transport used. |   
|            | As a group, organize a visit to Pere-Lachaise (choice of tombs, itinerary, other information) and write a text after the visit. |   

| Session 13 | Guided reading of La Petite Bijou (p. 66-106) |  
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|---  
|            | Preparation: Comment on the return to the 12th arrondissement, especially on p. 81. |   
|            | Reading-Writing: Transportation: Bus and metro Jacques Roubaud, *Ode à la ligne* 29. Choose a bus line whose trajectory interests you, ride the entire way and write about it. |   
|            | Visit: Musée Carnavalet, *Paris Liberated* |   

| Session 14 | Guided reading of *La Petite Bijou* (p. 107-169) |  
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|---  
|            | Reading-Writing: Transportation: bus and metro. |   

- Preparation: When does this story take place? During which historical event? Identify the places mentioned. What kinds of characters are associated with these places?  
- Reading-Writing: Poetics and history: street names.
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<td>Lost in Paris, Paris and memory, or the search for the past.</td>
<td>Turn in 2nd written assignment.</td>
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**Session 15**
- Group writing session in a Parisian café

**Session 16**
Guided reading of Brouillard au Pont de Tolbiac
- To read: Chapters 1-5.
- Preparation: Identify the geographical locations mentioned and the amount of times the word “brouillard” is mentioned. Identify word play and street names.
- Reading-Writing: How to write about Paris?

**Session 17**
Guided reading of Brouillard au Pont de Tolbiac. To read: Chapters 6-8
- Course: Parisian slang, anarchism, The New Mysteries of Paris, the 13th arrondissement and Léo Malet’s biography.
- Reading-Writing: To read and analyze: Lost Paris, Paris Disappeared, Paris Found, Paris Invented. Retrace the writer’s steps: Hugo and Modiano, le Petit Picpus. Preface of Léo Malet. As a group, organize a walk in the 13th district, based on Léo Malet’s walks, and write a text.
- Visit: la Cité de l’architecture revoir Paris et Viollet-le-Duc

**Session 18**
Guided reading of Brouillard au Pont de Tolbiac. To read: Chapters 9-12
- Preparation: On a map of the 13th district, make a note of places mentioned in the novel and the protagonist’s walks. Verify that the names of the roads still exist.

**Session 19**
Pedestrians in Paris: Jacques Roubaud, Jacques Réda
- Reading-Writing: The riverbanks, the Seine, the bridges. Apollinaire, Sous le Pont Mirabeau.
- Recount and write about a walk along the Seine.

**Session 20**
Guided reading of Nadja
- To read: p.9-69. Course: Nadja and surrealism, photography and description.
### Course Conclusion

**COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:**
- Victor Hugo’s home
- Boris Vian’s apartment
- Balzac’s home
- Musée Carnavalet, Paris Liberated
- la Cité de l’architecture revoir Paris et Viollet-le-Duc

**REQUIRED READINGS:**
Students must purchase the specified edition:
Complete works to form the basis of coursework:

**Booklet:**
- Booklet 1: "Boîte à outils" pour la lecture méthodique
- Booklet 2: Recueil de chansons sur Paris

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**
**Anthologies**

**Essays**
- BANCQUART Marie-Claire, *Images littéraires du Paris “fin-de-siècle”*, La Différence, 1979; Éd. de la Différence, 2002
- CITRON Pierre, *La Poésie de Paris dans la littérature française de Rousseau à Baudelaire*, éditions de Minuit, 1961

**NOTES:**
This course is offered during the regular semester and in the summer. For summer sections, the course schedule is condensed, but the content, learning outcomes, and contact hours are the same.