



## SO/US 360 CONTEMPORARY PARIS: POLITICS, POLICIES & PEOPLE

IES Abroad Paris BIA

**DESCRIPTION:** Paris, as a global city, the capital of France and its largest city, provides an excellent opportunity to study the political system, public policies, social trends and economic stakes of the country.

Paris has over 2 million residents, with a metropolitan area of about 12 million which is one of the most populated urban areas in Europe. It is one of the world's leading business and cultural centers. Paris is both a global and a national city. Global as it is ranked in the top-five cities in the world for its high economic performance and its cultural influence – along with New York, London and Tokyo. National because its history and the centralized nature of the French political system give the capital a core position in national policies.

Therefore, Paris will be used as a case study that will allow key concepts in political science and study public policy to be introduced in areas such as urban and economic development, housing, environment protection or public safety. It will also help students understand French politics, through the analysis of local electoral processes and the turbulent history of the city.

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45 hours

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**PREREQUISITES:** None

### **METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

- The class will consist of a mixture of lectures, discussions and slides. Readings, tables, maps, videos will be used to analyze national and local politics, and urban policies.
- Course-related trips and documentaries will be used to give a concrete taste of Paris and the issues studied during the semester.

### **REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

- Seminar participation: 10 %
- Quiz: 10 %
- Midterm exam (written): 20 %
- Oral presentations: 20 %  
*Students will be asked to make an oral presentation about the main topic of the session and explain to other students what are the issues related to it. The presentation will be followed by a discussion led by the presenting student(s), who will ask their fellow students their opinion about the topic and to link it with current events.*
- Final exam (written): 20 %
- Research essay/project of 4 000 words (20 %)  
*Students will be asked to draft a short research-project on a specific topic of urban sociology concerning Paris or Greater Paris.*

Students have to attend all class sessions.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Apply the basic analytical tools of political science and urban sociology to understand policy, electoral, and social processes in France and broaden their knowledge of Paris.
- Compare the French context with the US context and reuse the concepts and theories in other contexts.
- Utilize the analytical and methodological tools that will be useful for those who want to work in fields such as politics, social science, consulting, or urban development.

### **CONTENT:**

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Week	Content	Assignments
	<b>Introduction to Paris and political analysis</b>	
<b>Thursday Jan 26<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Class #1 (1):</b>	<b>A short history of Paris</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expectations in the classroom</li> <li>- Presentations will be assigned for each session</li> <li>- From a Catholic elitist monarchy to an egalitarian secular republic</li> <li>- The turbulent history of Paris</li> <li>- Paris = France?</li> </ul>	<u>Readings:</u> David JORDAN, "Haussman and Haussmanisation: The Legacy for Paris", <i>French Historical Studies</i> , vol. 27, n°1, winter 2004, pp. 87-113.  Jeremy POPKIN, <i>A Short History of the French Revolution</i> , Prentice Hall, 2009 (5 <sup>th</sup> ed.), chap. 1, 2 and 3.
<b>Class #1 (2):</b>	<b>The political and administrative status of Paris in France (1): US federalism vs. French centralism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regions, departments and cities : the territorial organization of France</li> <li>- The special status of Paris</li> <li>- The Mayor of Paris and the Préfet de Police</li> </ul>	<u>Readings:</u> Robert ELGIE, <i>Political Institutions in Contemporary France</i> , Oxford University Press, 2003, chapters 3 and 8.  Yves MÉNY and Andrew KNAPP, <i>Government and Politics in Western Europe : Britain, France, Italy, Germany</i> , Oxford University Press, 1998.
<b>Thursday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup></b>  <b>Class #2 (1)</b>	<b>The political and administrative status of Paris in France (2): the weight of Paris in French public policies and economics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The largest and most dynamic region in France</li> <li>- How decisions made in Paris influence the rest of the country</li> <li>- "Paris contre Province": is decentralization a possible future?</li> </ul>	<u>Readings:</u> Robert ELGIE, <i>Political Institutions in Contemporary France</i> , Oxford University Press, 2003, chapters 3 and 8.  Yves MÉNY and Andrew KNAPP, <i>Government and Politics in Western Europe : Britain, France, Italy, Germany</i> , Oxford University Press, 1998, chapter 7.
<b>Class #2 (2)</b>	<b>The close relationship between Paris and the French government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who governs Paris</li> <li>- The role of the French government in the development of Paris</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral presentation : La Défense</u></p>	<u>Readings:</u> Ludovic HALBERT, "The Decentralization of Intrametropolitan Business Services in the Paris Region: Patterns, Interpretation, Consequences", <i>Economic Geography</i> , vol. 80, n°4, pp. 381-404, October 2004.  Patrick LE GALÈS, "Urban Governance And Policy Networks: On The Urban Political Boundedness of Policy Networks. A French Case Study", <i>Public Administration</i> , vol. 79, n°1, pp. 167-184, spring 2001.
	<b>Paris and French politics</b>	
<b>Thursday Feb 9<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Class #3 (1):</b>	<b>Quiz (30 minutes)</b>	

<p><b>Class #3 (2):</b></p>	<p><b>The politics of Paris: is the left here for good?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The French party system</li> <li>- The electoral sociology of Paris</li> <li>- Lobbying and advocacy groups</li> <li>- The 2014 municipal elections</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral presentation: the Rise of the National Front</u></p>	<p><u>Readings:</u> Robert ELGIE, <i>Political Institutions in Contemporary France</i>, Oxford University Press, 2003, chapter 2.</p>
<p><b>Class #3 (3):</b></p>	<p><b>The Mayor of Paris: a highway to a great political destiny?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The powers of the mayor of Paris... and what he lacks</li> <li>- A national political figure</li> <li>- Chirac, Tibéri, Delanoë : three ways to govern a city</li> <li>- Anne Hidalgo, the current Mayor</li> </ul>	<p><u>Readings:</u> Yves MÉNY and Andrew KNAPP, <i>Government and Politics in Western Europe : Britain, France, Italy, Germany</i>, Oxford University Press, 1998, chapter 7.</p>
	<p><b>Economic and social issues in the Paris metropolitan area</b></p>	
<p><b>Thursday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup></b></p> <p><b>Class #4 (1):</b></p>	<p><b>Housing in Paris: is there room left for the Parisians?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A short history of urbanism in Paris</li> <li>- The new sociology of Paris</li> <li>- A « museum city »?</li> <li>- A city for the rich and the tourists : the problem of housing for the middle-classes</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral presentation: the Public Housing System in Paris</u></p>	<p><u>Readings:</u> Edmond PRÉTECEILLE, “Is gentrification a useful paradigm to analyse social changes in the Paris metropolis?”, <i>Environment and Planning</i>, vol. 39, n°1, 2007, pp. 10-31.</p> <p>Daniel ROCHE, <i>The people of Paris</i>, University of California Press, 1987, chapter 4.</p>
<p><b>Class #4 (2):</b></p>	<p><b>Starting research projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Methodology of a research paper</li> <li>- How to use a scientific approach to analyze urban and political issues</li> <li>- Research in practice: students set a framework for their own research essay</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Class #5 (1):</b></p>	<p><b>Paris, old European city or modern global city?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The restructuring of French economics</li> <li>- Local city vs. global city</li> <li>- How does Paris compete with other world cities?</li> </ul>	<p><u>Readings:</u> Marco OBERTI, “Social and school differentiation in urban spaces: inequalities and local configurations”, <i>Environment and Planning</i>, vol. 39, n°1, 2007, pp. 208-227</p>

	<p><u>Oral presentation: the Transformation of the Champs-Elysées</u></p>	<p>Tyler STOVALL, "French Communism and Suburban Development: The Rise of the Paris Red Belt", <i>Journal of Contemporary History</i>, vol. 24, n°3, July 1989, pp. 437-460.</p>
<p><b>Class #5 (2):</b></p>	<p><b>City vs. suburbs: a tale of two worlds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Périphérique: a boundary between two worlds</li> <li>- The socio-economic gap between Paris and the suburbs</li> <li>- West Paris vs. East Paris</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral presentation: the Périphérique, a Boundary Between Two Worlds</u></p>	<p><u>Readings:</u>  Marco OBERTI, "Social and school differentiation in urban spaces: inequalities and local configurations", <i>Environment and Planning</i>, vol. 39, n°1, 2007, pp. 208-227</p> <p>Tyler STOVALL, "French Communism and Suburban Development: The Rise of the Paris Red Belt", <i>Journal of Contemporary History</i>, vol. 24, n°3, July 1989, pp. 437-460.</p>
<p><b>Thursday Mar 9<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>Class #6 (1):</b></p>	<p><b>Midterm exam</b></p>	
<p><b>Class #6 (2):</b></p>	<p><b>Race and ethnicity: are there ghettos in France?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- American affirmative action vs. French colour-blindness</li> <li>- Issues about ethnicity and Religion in France</li> <li>- The issue of discrimination : housing, jobs, education, politics</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral presentation: The Face Veil Laws in France</u></p>	<p><u>Readings:</u>  Patrick IRELAND, "Comparing responses to ethnic segregation in urban Europe", <i>Urban Studies</i>, June 2008, vol. 45, n°7, pp. 1333-1358.</p>
<p><b>Thursday Mar 16<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>Class #7 (2):</b></p>	<p><b>Workshop on research projects and short presentations by students</b></p>	
<p><b>Thursday Mar 23<sup>rd</sup></b></p> <p><b>Class #8:</b></p>	<p><b>Course-related trip to Aubervilliers</b></p>	
<p><b>Thursday Mar 30<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>Class #9 (1):</b></p>	<p><b>The future of Paris: « Le Grand Paris »</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public transportation and infrastructures</li> <li>- Integration of the suburbs?</li> <li>- Should Paris be extended?</li> </ul>	<p><u>Readings:</u>  H.V SAVITCH, "Post-Industrial Planning in New York, Paris and London", <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i>, Vol. 53, n° 1, 1987.</p>

	<p><b>Arts, culture and sports: the public policies of entertainment</b></p>	
<p><b>Class #9 (2):</b></p>	<p><b>Cultural policies and monuments: art as a political issue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arts and culture in France : a national policy</li> <li>- The role of the city of Paris in arts</li> <li>- A monumental city : economic and political issues around public monuments</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral presentation: How is the Government Protecting the French Language?</u></p>	<p><u>Readings:</u> David LOOSELEY, <i>The Politics of Fun: Cultural Policy and Debate in Contemporary France</i>, Berg, 1997, chapters 7 and 8.</p> <p>Allen SCOTT, "The Cultural Economy of Cities", <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i>, vol. 21, n°2, June 1997, pp. 323-339.</p>
<p><b>Apr 6<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>Class #10</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation of research essays by students</b></p>	
<p><b>Apr 13<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>Class #11 (1):</b></p>	<p><b>Sports in Paris: old teams, new stadiums, new investors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New stadiums : public vs. private</li> <li>- NIMBY mobilizations against new sports facilities</li> <li>- Foreign investments in Paris sports</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral presentation: the Paris Soccer Team and Qatar</u></p>	<p><u>Readings:</u> Mark DYRESON, <i>The Rise of Stadiums in the Modern United States: Cathedrals of Sport</i>, Routledge, 2009, chapters 3 and 4.</p>
	<p><b>Public safety in Paris: a dangerous city?</b></p>	
<p><b>Class #11 (2):</b></p>	<p><b>Crime and fear of crime in Paris</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A history of crime in Paris</li> <li>- Crime trends</li> <li>- Safe city, dangerous suburbs?</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral presentation: Gun Control Laws in France and the USA</u></p>	<p><u>Readings:</u> Sophie BODY-GENDROT "The politics of urban crime", <i>Urban Studies</i>, vol. 38, 2001, pp. 915-928.</p>
<p><b>Apr 20<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>Class #12 (1):</b></p>	<p><b>Riots: crime or social movement?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Riots, a French tradition</li> <li>- Urban riots since the 1980s</li> <li>- What economic and social causes?</li> </ul> <p><u>Oral presentation: the 2005 riots</u></p>	<p><u>Readings:</u> Michael KATZ, "Why Don't American Cities Burn Very Often ?", <i>Journal of Urban History</i>, vol. 34, n°2, 2008, pp. 185-208.</p> <p>Cathy SCHNEIDER, "Police Powers and Race Riots in Paris", <i>Politics and Society</i>, vol. 36, n°1, March 2008, pp. 133-159.</p>

<b>Class #12 (2):</b>	<b>Safety policies in France and Paris: protecting the state or protecting the community?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do French police work?</li> <li>- Law enforcement vs. community policing</li> <li>- The Préfecture de police</li> </ul>	<b>Readings:</b> James Q. WILSON and George KELLING, "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety", <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> , March 1982.  Devah PAGER, "The Republican ideal? National minorities and the criminal justice system in contemporary France", <i>Punishment and Society</i> , vol. 10, n°4, October 2008, pp. 375-400.
	<b>Date TBA: Final exam</b>	

#### REQUIRED READINGS:

- Sophie BODY-GENDROT "The politics of urban crime", *Urban Studies*, vol. 38, 2001.
- Mark DYRESON, *The Rise of Stadiums in the Modern United States: Cathedrals of Sport*, Routledge, 2009.
- Robert ELGIE, *Political Institutions in Contemporary France*, Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Ludovic HALBERT, "The Decentralization of Intrametropolitan Business Services in the Paris Region: Patterns, Interpretation, Consequences", *Economic Geography*, vol. 80, n°4, October 2004.
- Patrick IRELAND, "Comparing responses to ethnic segregation in urban Europe", *Urban Studies*, vol. 45, n°7.
- David JORDAN, "Haussman and Haussmanisation: The Legacy for Paris", *French Historical Studies*, vol. 27, n°1, winter 2004.
- Michael KATZ, "Why Don't American Cities Burn Very Often?", *Journal of Urban History*, vol. 34, n°2, 2008.
- Patrick LE GALÈS, "Urban Governance And Policy Networks: On The Urban Political Boundedness of Policy Networks. A French Case Study", *Public Administration*, vol. 79, n°1, Spring 2001.
- Patrick LE GALÈS, *European Cities: Social Conflicts and Governance*, Oxford University Press, 2002.
- David LOOSELEY, *The Politics of Fun: Cultural Policy and Debate in Contemporary France*, Berg, 1997.
- Yves MÉNY and Andrew KNAPP, *Government and Politics in Western Europe : Britain, France, Italy, Germany*, Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Marco OBERTI, "Social and school differentiation in urban spaces: inequalities and local configurations", *Environment and Planning*, vol. 39, n°1, 2007.
- Devah PAGER, "The Republican ideal? National minorities and the criminal justice system in contemporary France", *Punishment and Society*, vol. 10, n°4, October 2008.
- Jeremy POPKIN, *A Short History of the French Revolution*, Prentice Hall, 2009 (5th ed.).
- Michel de la PRADELLE and Emmanuelle LALLEMENT, "Paris Plage: The City Is Ours", *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, vol. 595, September 2004.
- Edmond PRÉTECEILLE, "Is gentrification a useful paradigm to analyse social changes in the Paris metropolis?", *Environment and Planning*, vol. 39, n°1, 2007.
- Catherine RHEIN, "Globalisation, Social Change and Minorities in Metropolitan Paris: The Emergence of New Class Patterns", *Urban Studies*, March 1998, vol. 35, n°3.
- Daniel ROCHE, *The people of Paris*, University of California Press, 1987.
- H.V SAVITCH, *Post-Industrial Cities: Politics and Planning in New York, Paris and London*, Princeton University Press, 1989.
- Cathy SCHNEIDER, "Police Powers and Race Riots in Paris", *Politics and Society*, vol. 36, n°1, March 2008.
- Allen SCOT, "The Cultural Economy of Cities", *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, vol. 21, n°2, June 1997.
- Tyler STOVALL, "French Communism and Suburban Development: The Rise of the Paris Red Belt", *Journal of Contemporary History*, vol. 24, n°3, July 1989.
- James Q. WILSON and George KELLING, "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety", *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 1982.

#### RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Selections from these two texts are required reading and texts in full are recommended.

- Robert ELGIE, *Political Institutions in Contemporary France*, Oxford University Press, 2003.



- Yves MÉNY and Andrew KNAPP, *Government and Politics in Western Europe : Britain, France, Italy, Germany*, Oxford University Press, 1998.