

UC LON-PAR Global Cities Urban Realities Program – Spring 2015

PCC177. Documenting the Periphery: Identity and Citizenship in the “Other” Part of Paris

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Office Hours
by appointment

Lecture (course times include a 15 min break)

T 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

TH 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

See complete schedule for special sessions

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary course will examine the socioeconomic and political disenfranchisement experienced by residents of the "other France" – a France comprised of working-class citizens often of immigrant origin and from France’s former colonies. It will introduce students to urban sociology by requiring that they focus on the particular problems experienced by social actors who live in economically and socially disfavored parts of Paris. Topics covered include urban sociological theories, de-facto segregation, poverty, crime, schooling, public policy, national identity, the negotiation of bi-culturality, and the French secularizing mission. Students will investigate these topics from a variety of sources, ranging from documentary film and photojournalism to literary and cinematic expressions. Via these sources, they will become familiar with a vibrant urban "vernacular" culture that contests issues pertaining to citizenship, racialization and representation.

4.0 credits. Suggested subject areas for this course: *Urban Studies/Sociology/Comparative Literature*

COURSE MATERIALS

Mehdi Charef, *Tea in the Harem*

Faiza Guène, *Just Like Tomorrow*

Didier van Cauwelaert, *One-Way*

Course Reader (hereafter [CR])

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and site visits is mandatory. It is essential that you attend all classes and participate actively. As per the UC Attendance Policy, absences and tardies will result in a lowered final grade. Please refer to the UC Global Cities Urban Realities Program Academic Handbook for the policy on absences and tardies.

Participation and reading assignments are critical. For the purposes of this class, participation means reading the materials in advance, coming to class on time, staying for the entire class period, and actively taking part in discussions and other in-class exercises and activities. A large part of this portion of your grade is simply **paying attention**; in order to pay attention, you must be present! Lateness and absences will have a strong negative effect on your participation grade.

Assignments: Deadlines for assignments are to be respected. There will be NO extensions on assignments, nor will there be any additional or make up assignments.

Grade Breakdown:

Participation in class discussion:	15%
Oral Presentation:	15%
Weekly Quizzes:	20%
Paper (6-8 pages):	20%
Final Exam (In-class or Take-home):	30%

A Note on Academic Dishonesty: Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a failing grade in the class and possible dismissal from the program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as copying of materials from sources without duly citing them, claiming other's ideas as one's own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask your instructor.

A Note on Electronic Devices: As a courtesy to your instructor and fellow students, please do not use cell phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, or other electronic devices during class, even to check the time. Make sure phones are turned off. Use of these devices will lower your participation grade. No recording (audio or visual) of class sessions will be permitted.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

Week 1

I. The "Other" France in the "Other" Part of Paris: Representation, Identity & Citizenship

Required Reading for Tuesday, May 5th:

- Jeffrey H. Jackson, "Forgetting the Past in France's Post-Colonial Museums" [CR]

Tuesday, May 5th:

9:00-10:15 (at ACCENT) Introduction: What is representation? What is the "Other" France? What role does representation play in shaping the identity of the "Other" France? Some attempts at defining urban spatial and sociological concepts

✓
✓ **10:15-12:15** Class visit to the Cité Nationale de l'Histoire de l'Immigration (Immigration Museum) ✓
✓ (departing from ACCENT at 10:15) ✓
✓ ✓
✓ ✓

Required Reading for Thursday, May 7th:

- Alec Hargreaves, "A deviant construction: the French media and the 'Banlieues'" [CR]
- François Maspero, selections from *Roissy Express: Journey Through the Paris Suburbs* [CR]

Thursday, May 7th:

Lecture and Discussion: A Voyage to the "center" of the periphery: Maspero's journey and the immigrant's journey

Oral Presentations:

Group 1: Cédric Klapisch, *Paris* (film)

Group 2: Costa-Gavras, *Eden à l'Ouest* (film)

Week 2

II. Documenting the Periphery in the works of Charef and Kassovitz: Identity, Bi-culturality, and "Violent" Vernacular Culture in the Banlieue

Required Reading for Tuesday, May 12th:

- Alec Hargreaves, "National identity, nationality and citizenship" [CR]
- Mehdi Charef, *Tea in the Harem*

Tuesday, May 12th:

Lecture and Discussion: Motley Crews of "Violent" Youth

Guest speaker: Jean-Manuel Simoes, photo-journalist and artist

Oral Presentations:

Group 3: Mehdi Charef, *Tea in the Harem* (film)

Required Reading for Thursday, May 14th:

- Mustafa Dikeç, "From 'Neighborhoods in Danger' to 'Dangerous Neighborhoods': The Repressive Turn in Urban Policy" [CR]
- Tom Conley, "Cronos, Cosmos, and *Polis: La Haine*" [CR]

Thursday, May 14th:

Viewing: Mathieu Kassovitz, *La Haine*

Lecture and Discussion: Motley Crews of “Violent” Youth (cont.)

Oral Presentations:

Group 4: Carrie Tarr, *Reframing Difference: Beur and Banlieue Filmmaking in France* (book chapters)

Group 5: Ginette Vincendeau, *La Haine* (book chapters)

Week 3

III. Documenting the Periphery in the works of Faïza Guène: Identity, Bi-culturality, and a Vernacular Culture of “Contestation” in the Banlieue

Required Reading for Tuesday, May 19th:

- Faïza Guène, *Just Like Tomorrow*
- Faïza Guène, “Voice of the People.” Interview by Sarah Adams [CR]

Tuesday, May 19th:

9:00-10:30 Class visit to Châtelet-Les Halles – Connecting and controlling the periphery
Meet at Stravinsky Fountain at 9:00 am

11:00-12:30 Lecture and Discussion: Angels in handcuffs and other subaltern “speakers”

Oral Presentations:

Group 6: Faïza Guène, *Bar Balto*

Required Reading for Thursday, May 21st:

- Dominic Thomas, “Documenting the Periphery: The Short Films of Faïza Guène” [CR]
- Alec Hargreaves, “Minority ethnic identification and mobilization” [CR]

Thursday, May 21st:

Viewing: short documentaries from *Radicalement Votre*. Les Engraineurs, 2006 (translated transcripts of documentaries *Rumeurs*, *Le Bon à rien*, and *Sale Réput* in Course Reader)

Lecture and Discussion: The usual suspects? Diversity and its (dis)contents

Oral Presentations:

Group 7: Julien Abraham, *La Cité Rose* (film)

Week 4

IV. Documenting the Periphery Beyond its Borders: Strangers in Strange Lands

Required Reading for Tuesday, May 26th:

- Didier van Cauwelaert, *One-Way*
- Beth S. Epstein, “The Common Good: Parents, Teachers, and the Public Schools” [CR]

Tuesday, May 26th:

Lecture and Discussion: The usual suspects? van Cauwelaert’s *One-Way*

Guest speaker (related to Thursday's topic) : Beth S. Epstein, NYU France, filmmaker and anthropologist

V. Documenting the Periphery in public and private spheres: Identit(ies), Race and Apparel (with a particular emphasis on Headscarves and Skirts)

Required Reading for Thursday, May 28th:

- Trica D. Keaton, "Counterforces: Educational Inequality and Relative Resistance" [CR]

Thursday, May 28th:

Paper Due

Lecture and Discussion: Negotiating bi-cultural identities at home and in the public school system

Oral Presentations:

Group 8: Jean-Paul Lilienfeld, *La Journée de la jupe* (film)

Group 9: Laurent Cantet, *Entre les murs* (film)

Week 5

VI. From the *Banlieue* to the *Metropole*: When the Periphery / Center Divide Cannot Hold...

Required Reading for Tuesday, June 2nd:

- Alec Hargreaves, "Conclusion" [CR]
- Heidi Ellison, "Dining Well for a Good Cause" [CR]
- Liz Alderman, "In Poor Margins of Paris, New Recipe for Success" [CR]
- Mira Kamdar, "The Other Paris, Beyond the Boulevards" [CR]

Tuesday, June 2nd:

Lecture and Discussion: An "other" Paris: Where do we go from here?

Guest speaker: Ferdinand Fredonie, *Manger* – A socially conscious foodie restaurant employing banlieue youth

Thursday, June 4th:

Conclusions & Review

Final Exam (In-class or Take-home)