

UC LON-PAR Global Cities Urban Realities Program – Spring 2016
PCC141. **Pursuing Paris: A Global City's History of Destruction and Renewal**

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Office Hours
by appointment

Lecture

T, TH 10 am-1 pm

See complete schedule for F sessions
and/or exceptional course times

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The most visited city in the world, Paris poses this central question: just who are cities for? More than a picturesque concentration of streets and buildings, cities are historical crossroads where “the people” engender both the greatest problems yet offer all the potential solutions.

Plato equated the ideal city to that of a well-functioning body. So was Paris ever in healthy equilibrium? Rarely. Throughout its history Paris has more often been deemed gravely ill. Even today, analyses continue to differ as to the cause, the nature, and the means needed to cure all of its afflictions.

Exactly which “people” should be entrusted to repair, renew, or spare any urban space’s infrastructure and social geography? Are city-planners doctors who “first do no harm” or barber-surgeons who slash away at the skin and bones of ancient communities?

And “which people” should be catered to: kings, shopkeepers, emperors, revolutionaries, or even tourists? It seems that while everyone who comes to Paris has tried to leave his/her trace on the face of this beautiful invalid – from symbol-encrusted monuments to love-locks – some of these piercings and tattoos have been more permanently inscribed on our neighborhoods than others.

Using the body of Paris as our main text in this course, we will dissect the history of its social, political, and physical anatomy in order to rewrite our assumptions about what it takes to keep cities alive, “authentic,” and human. We will examine and discuss material ranging from scholarly texts to contemporary commentary, visit key sites around Paris, view the city and its people as interpreted through caricature, film, and song, as well as assess current news articles dealing with issues that affect the bodies of cities around the globe. **4.0 credits.** Suggested subject areas for this course: *History/Urban Studies/Sociology*

COURSE MATERIALS

Philippe Simon, *Paris, visite guidée: architecture, urbanism, history and actuality*
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:	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 ZERO

Friday, May 6th 10:00 am-1:00 pm:

CITIES IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH

Tracing the socio-historical geography of Paris since 52 B.C.E., a city that refuses to die.

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Plato, The Republic. Allan Bloom, translator. [Basic Books, 1968/1991]. Sections: Book II, 368e-370d; Book IV, 434d-441c; Book VIII, 556c-557b. **[CR]**

Louis-Sebastien Mercier, The Panorama of Paris (1781-1788), Jeremy D. Popkin, ed, and trans. [Penn State U Press, 1999]. Chapter 3, "The unhealthy state of the capital;" Chapter 37, "Doorways." **[CR]**

Akash Kapur, "Letter from Tamil Nadu: Rush, What happens when a big road meets a small village?" The New Yorker, October 14, 2013, pp. 59-65. **[CR]**

Richard Sennett, "No One Likes a City That's Too Smart," The Guardian, December 4, 2012. **[CR]**

Screening: Scenes from *Love in the Afternoon* (1957) and *Funny Face* (1956).

Listening: Words and music: Mistinguett, "Ça, c'est Paris" (1931)

WEEK ONE

Tuesday, May 10th:

TATTOOS ON SKIN, MUSCLE PROTECTING BONES

How governments can protect yet impose themselves on cities.

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Ch. 1, pp. 18-25.

Louis-Sebastien Mercier, The Panorama of Paris, Jeremy D. Popkin, ed, and trans. [Penn State U Press, 1999]. Chapter 14, "Barriers;" Chapter 73, "Pedestrians." **[CR]**

Carol Duncan, "From the Princely Gallery to the Public Art Museum; The Louvre Museum and the National Gallery, London," from D. Boswell & J Evans, eds. Representing the Nation [London: Routledge, 1999], pp. 304-326. **[CR]**

Nicolai Ourousoff, "Building Museums, and a Fresh Arab Identity," from The New York Times, November 27, 2010, pp. A1, A8. **[CR]**

SITE VISIT:

The walls of and around the Louvre – fortress, castle, museum. 800 years later, still unfinished

Thursday, May 12th:
POISON AND ITS POSSIBLE ANTIDOTES

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Ch. 2, pp. 26-33

Hilary Ballon, The Paris of Henri IV: Architecture and Urbanism (NY: MIT Press, 1991), Ch. 2, “The Place Royale,” and “Conclusion” [CR]

Henri IV, “The Edict of Nantes,” (1598). [Sources of the West, Mark Kishlansky, ed. (Pearson/Longman, 2006) vol. II, pp. 313-314]. [CR]

Michael Slackman, “Cleaning Cairo but taking a livelihood,” New York Times, May 24, 2009[CR]

E.J. Hobsbawm, “Mass-Producing Traditions: Europe 1870-1914,” in Hobsbawm, E.J. and Terrence Ranger, eds., The Invention of Tradition. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), excerpts: pp. 263-273 and 303-307. [CR]

Charlie Hebdo, cover, “Christmas issue,” December 2014 [CR]

Screening: Scene: “Kill Them All” from DW Griffith, *Intolerance* (1916).

Oral presentation

Group 1:

- 1) **Place des Vosges**
- 2) **Place de la République**
- 3) **La Grande Mosquée**

WEEK TWO

Tuesday, May 17th 9:30 AT ACCENT

VERSAILLES: IDEAL CITY? OR IS THE HEAD SEVERED FROM THE BODY?

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Ch. 3, pp. 34-41

Nathan Whitman, “Myth and Politics: Versailles and the Fountain of Latona,” from John C. Rule, ed., Louis XIV and the Craft of Kingship. (Ohio State Univ. Press, 1969), pp. 286-301. [CR]

Jeffrey Merrick, “The Body Politics of French Absolutism,” in: Sara E. Melzer and Kathryn Norberg, eds. From the Royal to the Republican Body [Berkeley: U California Press, 1998], pp. 11-31 [CR]

Screening: Scenes from Coppola, *Marie Antoinette* (2006); Chaney, *The Phantom of the Opera* (1924)

SITE VISIT:

Bright eyes and beating heart: *Le Palais Garnier*

Thursday, May 19th:

HOLD YOUR NOSE: WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH PERISTALSIS

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Ch. 4, pp. 42-51

Louis-Sebastien Mercier, The Panorama of Paris, Chapter 20, “Doctors ;” Chapter 79, “Closed Cemeteries;” Chapter 93, “Gutters.” [CR]

Victor Hugo, Les Misérables. (1862, Penguin translation by Norman Denny, 1976). Vol. 5., Book 3, chapters 1-7, pp. 1076-1091. [CR]

Johannes Willms, Paris, Capital of Europe, (New York: Holmes & Meier, 1997), pp. 15-24 [CR]

Alain Corbin, The Foul and the Fragrant [Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1986]. Pp. 48-56, 89-105, 142-160. [CR]

Oral presentation

Group 2:

- 1) **The Sewer Museum**
- 2) **The Catacombs**
- 3) **Fragonard Perfume Museum**

WEEK THREE:

Tuesday, May 24th:

NAILS CLAW AT THE FACE: OF KINGS, RABBLE, AND RUBBLE

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Louis-Sebastien Mercier, The Panorama of Paris. Chapter 47, “Riots.” [CR]

Priscilla P. Ferguson, Paris as Revolution, (Berkeley: U California Press, 1994), pp. 11-14, 16-19 ,22, 25-29, 36-37. [CR]

James Leith, “Ephemera: Civic Education Through Images,” from Peter Jones, ed., The French Revolution in Social and Political Perspective (London: Arnold Press, 1996), pp. 188-202. [CR]

Lynn Hunt, "Of Freedom of Dress in Revolutionary France," in: Sara E. Melzer and Kathryn Norberg, eds., From the Royal to the Republican Body [Berkeley: U California Press, 1998], pp. 224-249. [CR]

Frederick Baker, "The Berlin Wall and the Bastille: Tearing down walls and building myths," in European Review of History, 1994, 1:2, pp. 157-167. [CR]

Ban Ki-moon, Irina Bokova, Lakhdar Brahimi, "Statement, Destruction of Syria's cultural heritage must stop," March 12, 2014. United Nations website:<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7521> [CR]

Screening: Scenes from *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (1934); Sacha Guitry, *Si Versailles m'était conté*, Edith Piaf sings "Ça ira."

Listening: Words and music: "La Carmagnole"

Thursday, May 26th:

UNBLOCKED ARTERIES, CUT VEINS, PAINFUL ERECTIONS

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Ch. 5-6-7, pp. 52-83

Louis-Sebastien Mercier, The Panorama of Paris. Chapter 9, "Street Lighting;" Chapter 15, "Latest Great Fire;" Chapter 60, "Lantern Men;" Chapter 90, "Height of buildings." [CR]

From Victor Hugo, Notre Dame de Paris J.Sturrock, trans. (London: Penguin 1978 (1831)) Book III, part 2, "A Birds Eye View of Paris") [CR]

Johannes Willms, Paris, Capitol of Europe. "Napoleon as Architect," pp. 124-135. [CR]

David Jordan, Transforming Paris, [NY: Free Press, 1995], Ch 8, "The Implacable Axes of a Straight Line," pp. 185-210. [CR]

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, The Railway Journey: Industrialisation of Time and Space in the 19th Century [Berkeley: U Cal Press, 1977/1986]. "Excursions: the space of glass architecture," pp. 45-51; "Railroad Station: Entrance into the City," pp. 171-177. [CR]

Marshall Berman, All That is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity (New York: Penguin, 1982/1988). "In the Forest of Symbols: Some Notes on Modernism in New York, Section 1, Robert Moses: The Expressway World," pp. 287-312. [CR]

Screening: Greta Garbo and Melvin Douglas in *Ninotchka* (1939), "I am looking for the Eiffel Tower."

Oral presentation

Group 3:

- 1) **The View from atop and below Notre Dame de Paris**
- 2) **In and around the Gare Montparnasse**
- 3) **The View from the Passerelle Simone-de-Beauvoir**

WEEK FOUR:

Tuesday, May 31st:

PAPER DUE

THE TONGUE AND THE BELLY OF PARIS

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Ch. 8-11, pp. 84-131

Louis-Sebastien Mercier, The Panorama of Paris, Jeremy D. Popkin, ed, and trans. [Penn State U Press, 1999]. Chapter 11, "Markets." [CR]

Statistics relating to seasonal mortality rates and the price of bread in the 17th and 18th centuries. [CR]

Emile Zola, The Belly of Paris, Brian Nelson, trans. (Oxford World Classics, 2007), excerpts. [CR]

Reuters News Feed: "Egypt's Sisi Scores Early Success with Smart Cards for Bread Subsidies," January 12, 2015. [CR]

Richard Bernstein, "The Death and Life of a Great Chinese City," in NYRB, March 26, 2009, pp. 40-42. [CR]

Richard Cobb, "The Assassination of Paris," in his People and Places (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985), pp. 187-199. [CR]

Alan Riding, "For Paris, The Newest Look is a Canopy," New York Times, July 7, 2007, pp. "Arts" 1, 19. [CR]

Screening: Market scene from Jean-Pierre Jeunet's *A Very Long Engagement* (2004)

SITE VISIT:

Beauty marks or pimples?: *Les Halles/Centre Pompidou*

Thursday, June 2nd:

TEARS: WET OR DRY?

Sites that cite trauma. Do they help us heal?

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Adam Gopnik, "Comment: Civil War Memorials," The New Yorker, May 9, 2011, pp. 21-22. [CR]

Richard D.E. Burton, "Marble vs. Iron: Sacré Coeur and the Eiffel Tower," from Blood in the City. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001, pp. 174-183 and 190-197). [CR]

Tony Judt, "What Have We Learned, If Anything?" New York Review of Books, May 1, 2008, pp. 16-20. [CR]

Robin Pogrebin, "When Architects meet Autocrats." Le Monde/New York Times, June 28, 2008. [CR]

Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Responsibility of the Individual," from Existentialism (1956), one page. [CR]

Group 4: Will present a slide show or short film of their exploration of

- 1) The "Mur des Fédérés" in Père Lachaise cemetery
- 2) The Sacré Coeur
- 3) The "Memorial des déportés" behind Notre Dame cathedral on the Ile de la cité.

Friday, June 3rd 10:00 am-2:00 pm:

ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION

Screening: *Chacun cherche son chat* [When the Cat's Away], Cedric Klapisch, 1996.

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Chs. 12-13, pp. 132-176

Martin Filler, "Smash It: Who Cares?" New York Review of Books, November 8, 2012, pp 23-25. [CR]

Colin Jones, "Paris: Biography of a City." (New York: Viking Press, 2006). pp. 363-364; 447-454. [CR]

Colin Giraud, "Gentrification in Paris: the elite versus the people?" Review of Anne Clerval's *Paris sans le peuple* in: Metropolitics.eu, January 29, 2014. Web. [CR]

Adam Gopnik, "Higher and Higher: What Tall Buildings Do," from The New Yorker, December 15, 2003, pp. 112-118. [CR]

Georgi Kantchev, “Plan aims to Enliven Paris’s Financial District.” New York Times, Business section, July 31, 2013, pp. 1, 6. [CR]

Ada Colau, “Mass tourism can kill a city – just ask Barcelona’s residents,” The Guardian, September 2, 2014. [CR]

“Naked Italians on a Street in Barcelona, August 21, 2014. Photo: Vincens Forner. [CR]

Winston Ross, “The Death of Venice: corrupt officials, mass tourism, and soaring property values,” in The Independent, May 14, 2015. [CR]

Saturday: EXCURSION TO VERSAILLES!

WEEK FIVE:

Tuesday, June 7th: FINAL EXAM (10 am-12 pm)