

UC LON-PAR Global Cities Urban Realities Program – Spring 2016
PCC140. **Media and Identity: Images and Realities of “the Parisian”**

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Office Hours
by appointment

Lecture

T, W, TH 2:00-4:00 pm

See complete schedule for M sessions

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The night of the 11.13.2015, facing a terrorist attack at the National Stadium at Saint Denis and in the heart of their city, in the 10th and the 11th arrondissements, Parisians all opened their doors to each other, and the entire world communicated its solidarity towards them with the hashtag "#PrayforParis". In the minds of Parisians, as well as the rest of the world, no matter the social, ethnic, age, or even religious difference, Paris and Parisians suffered unthinkable pain as a whole. And during the following days, Parisians seemed to have remained united and homogenous, as the fear and the sorrow of those living next to the Bataclan Concert Hall were reported to be similar to the feelings of those living in Saint-Denis, where the presumed leader of the terrorist attack was found and killed by the police. Was there a real unity in the reactions of Parisians to these attacks or was it a phantasmagoric hypothesis upon which the media built their news and their stories?

In a global city like Paris, the population is by definition very diverse. What is the common point between a teenager whose grand-parents came from North Africa in the sixties and who grew up in public housing in La Courneuve, a young couple of clerks working at La Defense who moved to Levallois after their first child was born, a student who recently arrived from the "provinces" whose parents helped him to study in Paris by renting a room for him in the 15th, a graphic designer living in a one bedroom apartment near the Canal Saint-Martin, and an old lady owning her own flat for nearly 50 years in the 16th? Is there a common image and a common identity of "the Parisian"? An identity which is not only crossing back and forth across the Seine river but also crossing over to the "périphérique", applying to that "other" Paris, the "banlieue"? Is there a "political agenda" in stressing the unity, or, on the other hand the diversity and the conflicts of nearly 10 million people sharing a territory and its moving history?

Questioning how the media, in their broad sense (newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, but also online media, movies, TV Shows, books and cartoons) picture the Parisian, this interdisciplinary course will examine the key role that images and representations play in the building and the transformation of an identity. Using methods and concepts stemming from political science, sociology, history, communication, literary theory, and film studies, we will try to better understand how the figure of "the Parisian" could be simultaneously so clearly

defined and so difficult to grasp. **4.0 credits**. Suggested subject areas for this course: *Political Science/Communications/Film*

COURSE MATERIALS

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: List of topics to be chosen):	20%
Final Exam (In class: Portrait of a "Parisian"):	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. Bourgeois & People: Two Kinds of Parisians?

Session 1 Monday, May 9th (10am-12pm): Two types of Paris: People of Paris VS Les Beaux Quartiers

Required Reading:

Alain Corbin, "Paris-Province"

Lolita Pille, *Hell's Diary* (extracts)

Pierre Bourdieu, *The State Nobility* (extracts)

Lecture & Discussion: The "other" of the Parisian comes from the "province". We'll discuss France's tradition of centralization and confront the symbolic power of Paris to the actual impact of the regions.

In-class Screening: "La Mulette" by Claude Chabrol (16 mn) in *Paris vu par* (1965).

Lecture & Discussion: Boredom in "Les Beaux Quartiers"

Session 2 Tuesday, May 10th people of Paris: Les Misérables in 2016

Required Reading:

Mario Vargas Llosa, *The Temptation of the Impossible* (extracts)

Helena Horton, "Banksy's 'Les Misérables' artwork outside French embassy in London criticizes use of tear gas at refugee camp" <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/12119274/New-interactive-Les-Miserables-Banksy-artwork-outside-French-embassy-in-London-criticises-use-of-teargas-in-Calais-refugee-camp.html>

Lecture & Discussion: The difficult transition between the magnification of Paris's workers to the difficulty of representing outcasts and "normal" middle-class people living in the capital.

Session 3: Wednesday, May 11th (1-4 pm): Can the Artists be Wealthy? The Invention of the "Bobo"

Required Reading:

Mark Greif, "The Hipster in The Mirror" http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/14/books/review/Greif-t.html?_r=0

Alice Pfeiffer "The Hipster is dead, Long live the Hipster" <http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2015/oct/03/hipster-social-phenomenon-commercial-success>

Oral Presentation, **Group 1**: What is the difference between a Parisian “hipster” and a “bobo”?

2: 2h30 pm Bus 76

2h30-4 pm Visit of the exhibition “Fashion Forward” @ Musée des Arts décoratifs

II. Love & Elegance at the Center

Session 4: Thursday, May 12th: Love in Paris and Love for Paris

Required Reading:

André Breton, *Nadja* (extracts)

Roland Barthes, *A Lover's Discourse Quotes* (extracts)

Quiz

Oral Presentation, **Group 2**: Leos Carax, *Les amants du Pont neuf*

Lecture & Discussion: Enamored Souls and "Lost generations": Paris and the "Artistic" Tradition of Falling in Love

Week 2.

Session 1: Tuesday, May 17th: Is an Old City a Romantic City? Searching for Love in a 2.0 City

Required Reading:

Aziz Ansari, *Modern Romance* (extracts)

David Foenkinos, *Erotic Potential of My Wife* (extracts)

Lecture & Discussion : In contrast with their romantic reputation, Parisians are in their majority (more than 50 %) single. So much so that Paris is the perfect testing ground for new dating apps and ideas (speed dating and colored shopping card to identify single shoppers). What happened to a city which elected the "love lock" as its new symbol?

Oral Presentation, **Group 3**: Happn & Once. Is there a Parisian recipe to build a successful dating application?

Session 2. Thursday, May 19th: Paris: Edge, Beauty, and Trend

Required Reading:

Walter Benjamin, "Paris Capital of the 19th Century"

Frederic Godart , "The power structure of the fashion industry: Fashion capitals, globalization and creativity"

Quiz

Oral Presentation, **Group 4:** Bertrand Bonello, *Saint Laurent*

Lecture & Discussion: Behind the traditional image, we will investigate if fashion works as a "soft power" for Paris. Is it just a question of "image" or is Paris still awake, vivid, and creative? If yes, then what is the specificity of the Parisian "style" in our globalized world. We'll discuss the editorial lines of edgy French magazines such as Le bonbon, Weiss, Citizen K, Brain, and My Little Paris.

Week 3

III. The Movement of Modernity: Paris & its Shades of Revolution

Session 1. Tuesday, May 24th: Innovation & Speech: Paris as a Very Talkative Avant-Garde

PAPER DUE

Required Reading:

Ernest Hemingway, *A Moveable Feast* (extracts)

John Lichfield, "World at his feet: the maverick who's bought Le Monde"

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/media/press/world-at-his-feet-the-maverick-whos-bought-le-monde-2015171.html>

Lecture & Discussion: The Renewal of Paris' Brainpower: Mapping New Reviews, Think Tanks and Hives

Oral Presentation, **Group 5:** Anarchism & Contestation: The role of Charlie Hebdo since the 70s in the French public sphere

Session 2. Wednesday, May 25th (1-4 pm): Paris: The Eternal Center the political & esthetical Revolutions

Required Reading:

Patrice Higonnet, "Capital of revolution"

Michael Seidman, "Sex, Drugs, and Revolution"

Fiachra Gibbons, Inside David Lynch's Paris Nightclub

<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2011/aug/31/david-lynch-disco-paris>

Quiz

Part 1. Politics

Oral Presentation, **Group 6**: Mia Hansen-Love, *Eden*

Oral Présentation, **Group 7** : Chris Marker, *Le joli mai*

Lecture & Discussion: Reflection upon the fact that Paris seems to be a strong center for revolutionary breakthrough. Is this "volcanic" characteristic balanced by calling for reason and the "Enlightenment".

Part 2. Nightly Aesthetics

In-class Screenings:

- Bain de Minuit / Thierry Ardisson / La 5 : <https://www.ina.fr/video/I08086104/nina-simone-a-propos-de-jacques-brel-video.html>

- Paris Dernière / Thierry Ardisson / TéléParis : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ377WfHsNw>

Lecture & Discussion

IV. Les Faubourgs: A Moving Picture of the Periphery

Session 3. Thursday, May 26th Territory + Age: Who are "Les Jeunes des Banlieues"?

Required reading:

Karine Tuil, *The Age of Reinvention* (extracts)

George Parker, "The Other France: Are the suburbs of Paris incubators of terrorism?"

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/31/the-other-france>

Oral Presentation, **Group 8** : *Girlhood*, Céline Sciamma

Lecture & Discussion: A sacrifice of the Y & Z generations?

Week 4.

Session 1. **Monday, May 30th (10am-1pm)**: Terror within the "Peripherique"

Required Reading:

Michel Houellebecq, *Submission* (extracts)

Emmanuel Todd, *Who is Charlie?* (extracts)

Oral Presentation, **Group 9**: *Don't worry, I'm fine*, Philippe Lioret

Lecture & Discussion: "Mariage pour tous", "catholaïcité": Is the Parisian middle class still culturally catholic?

Session 2. Tuesday, May 31st (1-4 pm): Staying or Leaving? Fear after the Paris Attacks

Required Reading:

Piers Robinson, "The CNN Effect Revisited"

Jessica Ravitz, "'Je Suis Juif': Do Jews and France have a future together?"

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/13/world/french-jews/>

Quiz

1-2.30 pm: Oral Presentation, **Group 10:** Are there "No go zones" within Paris?

Discussion: Do Parisians live in fear?

=> **2.30-4 pm:** Religious Coexistence in Paris and France. Encounter with Eve Gani, Director of International Affairs of the CRIF, the national Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions.

Session 3. Wednesday, June 1st (1-4 pm): Paris on the Breach: Resistance, Dialogue, and Political Suggestions

Required Reading:

Dylan Tweaney, "This French tech school has no teachers, no books, no tuition — and it could change everything" <http://venturebeat.com/2014/06/13/this-french-tech-school-has-no-teachers-no-books-no-tuition-and-it-could-change-everything/>

Olivier Roy, "There Are More French Muslims Working for French Security Than for Al Qaeda" http://www.huffingtonpost.com/olivier-roy/paris-attack-muslim-cliches_b_6445582.html

Lecture & Debate: Laïcité, Islam, and Other Beliefs

Oral Presentation, **Group 10:** Explain the French concept of "laïcité" and its social and political consequences on today's Parisians.

Session 4. Thursday, June 2nd

REVIEW SESSION

Week 5.

Monday, June 6th (10am-12pm)

FINAL EXAM