

UC Center Program Courses - Spring 2006

PCC 111. HISTORIES OF PARIS

Prof. [Mark Meigs](#)

Office Hours

By appointment

Lecture

Wednesday, 9-10:30 am

Thursday, 3:30-5:00 pm

Section

Tuesday, 4:30-5:30 pm

(Yves Winter)

*Using the buildings and space of Paris as a laboratory, this course surveys key events in the histories of Paris and France. The course will focus on the social and cultural history of the city in its material dimensions; the relation of streets and buildings to the unfolding events of French history, and the meanings of local topography within the enduring mythologies of the city. A central goal of the course is to teach students to read and write critically about the history of Paris and the cityscape around them. [History, Urban Studies, Sociology, Architecture, French] **6.0 credits***

COURSE MATERIALS

- Colin Jones, *Paris: Biography of a City*, Allen Lane-Penguin, 2004
(The first two chapters of this book will not be assigned, but students are encouraged to read them for their pleasure)
- Honoré de Balzac, *Old Goriot*
This novel of some 300 pages is highly enjoyable, often moving and sometimes very funny as well as being full of historical information. Students should judge how long they will need to read it. Starting a couple of weeks before the discussion in week 5 is advised.
- A Course Reader ([CR] hereafter)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to do each week's readings before the first week's session, and to attend the mandatory site visits.

- **Class participation** (including several short written exercises throughout the term) will be worth **25%** of the grade.
- There will also be a **research paper** (10 pages) **25%**
- a **midterm 25%**
- a **final 25%**

COURSE SCHEDULE

There is also a separate [Course Resources Page](#) with additional electronic materials for this course.

Week 1. February 20-24

The Past in the Present

Session 1: Reading the City: The Louvre from Philippe Auguste to I.M. Pei

Session 2: Recognizing the Styles and Symbols of Paris.

Class Excursion: Louvre

Reading:

- Colin Jones, "Paris Reborn, Paris Reformed (c. 1480-1594)" in *Paris: Biography of a City*, pp. 96-131
- Jean-Pierre Babelon, "The Louvre: Royal Residence and the Temple to the Arts" in Pierre Nora's *Realms of Memory: Volume III*, pp. 253-289 [CR]

Suggested Documents:

- [An eyewitness account of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day, August 24, 1572.](#)

Websites:

- [Official site of the Louvre](#)
- [Aerial views of the Louvre](#)
- [Louvre extensions \(1852-57\)](#)

Week 2. February 27 - March 3

Urban Absolutism and Enlightenment

Session 1 : Royal Squares and Gardens

Session 2: Gender and Representation

Class Excursion: Musée Carnavalet

Reading:

- Jones, "Grand Siècle, Great Eclipse (1594-1715)" in *Paris: Biography of a City*, pp. 132-172
- Judith Coffin, "[Gender and the Guild Order: The Garment Trades in Eighteenth-Century Paris](#)" in *The Journal of Economic History*, vol.54, n.4, December 1994, pp. 768-793

Websites:

- [Images of the Place Vendome](#)
- [Place Vendome - Photos](#)
- [Images of the Place des Vosges](#)

Week 3. March 6-10

Anti-Urban Absolutism

Session 1: Versailles and Les Invalides

Session 2: Expressing and Monitoring Public Opinion

Reading:

- Jones, "The Kingless Capital of Enlightenment (1715-89)" in *Paris: Biography of a City*, pp. 173-214
- Edouard Pommier, "Versailles: The Image of the Sovereign" in Pierre Nora's *Realms of Memory: volume III, Realms of Memory*, vol. 3, pp. 293-324 [CR]
- Robert Darnton, "[An Early Information Society](#)", (on public opinion, cafe life, and communications networks in eighteenth-century Paris); recommended is the segment on "Public Opinion and Communications Networks in Eighteenth Century Paris" under that heading examine: "Policing a Poem" and "A communication Network"
- Jeffrey S. Ravel, "[Seating the Public: Spheres and Loathing in the Paris Theaters, 1777-1788](#)" in *French Historical Studies*, vol.18, n.1, Spring, 1993), pp. 173-210

Documents:

- Louis-Sebastien Mercier, "Doorways" & "Lantern Men" in *Panorama of Paris*, pp. 89-91, 132-134 [CR]

Websites:

- [Two portraits of Louis XIV](#)
- [Images of Gardens and Grounds](#)

Week 4. March 13-17

Revolutionary Paris

Session 1: Interpretations of the French Revolution of 1789

Session 2: Paris and the Revolution of 1789

- Jones, "Revolution and Empire (1789-1815)" in *Paris: Biography of a City*, pp. 215-262
- Mona Ozouf, "The Festival and Space" in *Festival and the French Revolution*, Harvard University Press, 1988, pp.126-157 [CR]

Documents:

- Louis-Sebastien Mercier, "The Buyer of Annuities", "Madames", "Palais Royal" in *Panorama of Paris*, pp. 137-140, 142-148, 202-209 [CR]

Websites:

- [Historical Documents on the French Revolution and Napoleon](#)
- [Exploring the French Revolution: Documents. Images. Texts. Songs. Chronologie](#)

Suggested Reading:

- David Garrioch, Chapters 11 & 12 in *The Making of Revolutionary Paris*, UC Press, 2002, pp. 260-302 [CR]

Week 5. March 20-24

Revolution and Memory

Session 1: The Revolutionary Century

Session 2: Society and a Revolutionary Century

Reading:

- Honore Balzac, *Old Goriot*

Suggested Documents:

- François Guizot, "[Condition of the July Monarchy](#)" [1830-48]
- Alphonse de Lamartine, "[History of the French Revolution of 1848](#)"

Websites:

- [Documents on the 1848 Revolution in France](#)
- If you want to look up anything (names, dates, places) on the 1848 Revolution, go to [Encyclopedia of 1848 Revolutions](#).
See also the detailed "[tutorial](#)" by historian [John Breuille](#), including many primary documents and material from the period 1815-1848.

Week 6. March 27-31

Reading and Writing the Post-Revolutionary City

Session 1: Crime and Representation

Session 2: The Factory and the City

Reading:

- Jones, "Between the Napoleons (1815-1851)" in *Paris: Biography of a City*, pp. 263-298
- Louis Chevalier, "The Pictorial Literature" in *Laboring Classes and Dangerous Classes in Paris During the First Half of the Nineteenth-Century*, Howard Ferting, 2000, pp. 59-79 [CR]
- W. Scott Haine, "[Café Friendship': Friendship and Fraternity in Parisian Working Class Cafés, 1850-1914](#)" in *Journal of Contemporary History*, vol.27, n.4 October 1992, pp.607-626

Suggested Documents:

- Norbert Truquin, "Memoirs and Adventures of a Proletarian in Times of Revolution" in Mark Traugott, ed. [The French Worker: Autobiographies from the Early Industrial Era](#), UC Press, 1993, pp. 250-308

Week 7. April 3-7

MIDTERM

Post-Revolutionary Society

Session 1: Midterm

Session 2: The Family and Its Discontents

Reading:

- Rachel G. Fuchs & Leslie Page Moch, "[Pregnant, Single, and Far from Home: Migrant Women in Nineteenth-Century Paris](#)" in *The American Historical Review*, vol.95, n. 4, October 1990, pp. 1007-1031

SPRING BREAK

Week 8. April 18-21

Paris and Consumers

Session 1: The Consumer and the City

Session 2: The Big Stores and Boulevards: Haussmannisation

Reading:

- Jones, "Haussmannism and the City of Modernity (1851-89)" in *Paris: Biography of a City*, pp. 299-343
- Walter Benjamin, "Paris The Capital of the Nineteenth Century" in *The Arcades Project*, Belknap Press, 2002, pp. 3-26. **[CR]**
- Vanessa R. Schwartz, "The Musée Grévin: Museum and Newspaper in One" in [Spectacular Realities: Early Mass Culture in Fin-de-siècle Paris](#), UC Press, 1998) **[CR]**

Week 9. April 24-28

The Commune and its Memoires

Session 1: The Paris Commune

Session 2: The End of a Revolutionary Century

(Recommended student visits: République, Arc de Triomphe, Square Louis XVI, Bastille, le Panthéon, Cimetière Père LaChaise Mur des Martyrs.)

Reading:

- Jones, "The Anxious Spectacle (1889-1918)" in *Paris: Biography of a City*, pp. 344-384
- Eugene Schulkind, "[Socialist Women during the 1871 Paris Commune](#)" in *Past and Present*, n.106, February 1985, pp. 124-163
- M. Agulhon, "Paris: A Traversal from East to West" in Pierre Nora's *Realms of Memory: volume III*, pp 523-552 **[CR]**
- M. Ozouf, "The Panthéon: The Ecole Normale of the Dead" in Pierre Nora's *Realms of Memory: volume III*, pp 325-346 **[CR]**

Suggested Documents:

- John Leighton, "[One Day Under the Paris Commune](#)" (1871).

Websites:

- [1200 digitized photographs, images, and caricatures from Northwestern University](#)

Week 10. May 2-5

Paris as Spectacle for Sale

Session 1 : The Paris Where Highbrow Meets Lowbrow

Session 2: Paris and Mass Culture: in movies and music.

Recommended student visits: Bon Marché, Samaritaine, Galeries Lafayette, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Hotel Drouot, Carreau du Temple , Puces de St-Ouen.)

Reading:

- Jones, "Faded Dreams, Lost Illusions (1918-1945)" in *Paris: Biography of a City*, pp. 385-425
- T.J. Clark, "A Bar at the Folies Bergères" in *The Painting of Modern Life: Paris in the Art of Manet and his Followers*, Thames & Hudson, 2003, pp. 205-268 **[CR]**
- Michael Seidman, "[The Birth of the Weekend and the Revolts against Work: The Workers of the Paris Region during the Popular Front \(1936-38\)](#)" in *French Historical Studies*, vol.12, n.2, 1981, pp. 249-276

Websites:

- [Images from the Paris World's Fair, 1900](#)

Week 11. May 9-12

The Paris of Foreigners, Tourists, Expats, Soldiers, Immigrants

Session 1 : Expatriates and Culture

Session 2: Immigrants and Society

(Recommended student visits: Tour Eiffel, Mosquée de Paris, American Cathedral, Café de la Coupole, Café de Flore, Café des Deux Magots, Conservatoire Rachmaninoff.)

Reading:

- Tyler Stovall, "Freedom Overseas: African-American Soldiers Fight the Great War" in *Paris Noir: African Americans in the City of Light*, Houghton Mifflin, 1996, pp. 1-24 **[CR]**
- Ernest Hemingway, ch.1 in *A Moveable Feast*, Touchstone, 1996, pp. 3-8 **[CR]**
- Jeffrey H. Jackson, "[Making Jazz French: The Reception of Jazz Music in Paris, 1927-1934](#)" in *French Historical Studies*, vol.25, n.1, Winter 2002, pp. 149-170

Week 12. May 15-19

Paris, World War II and its Consequences

Session 1 : The Occupation

Session 2: Paris from the Fourth Republic to 1968

- Jones, "The Remaking of Paris (1945—c. 1995)" in *Paris: Biography of a City*, pp. 426-474
- P. Burrin, "Intellectuals and Self-Preservation" in *France Under the Germans*, The New Press, 1996, pp. 306-23 **[CR]**
- Andrew Feenberg and Jim Freedman, *When Poetry Ruled the Streets. The French May Events of 1968*, SUNY Press, 2001, pp. 1-30 & 69-91 **[CR]**

Websites:

- [Exhibition on the Liberation of Paris \(1945\)](#)

Week 13. May 22-24

REVIEW AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS