

UC Center Program Courses - Fall 2007

PCC 123. Paris in Literature

Prof. Will Bishop

**Lecture**

Monday 2:30-4:00pm

Wednesday 4:00-5:30pm

**Section**

Tuesday 5:30-6:30pm

This course looks at representations of Paris in French literature of the modern period. Readings have been chosen to introduce students to Paris's multiple and changing identities. The course will place a particular emphasis on the borders, sometimes extremely stable and others somewhat porous, between the different social worlds that make Paris such an interesting, diverse, and culturally important city. Beginning with Balzac's powerful representation of the city as the locus of power, corruption and social inequality, we will trace key developments in the way French novelists, poets and filmmakers have conceptualized their capital city. We will in the course of the semester become familiar with some of the important literary movements of the modern period: realism (Balzac), naturalism (Zola), surrealism (Breton) etc. [Literature, Comp Lit, Urban Studies, History, French] **6.0 credits**.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

- Honoré de Balzac, *Lost Illusions*
- Emile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*
- Marcel Proust, *The Guermantes Way*
- Course Reader (**[CR]** hereafter)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Attendance at lectures, section and site visits is mandatory.** It is essential that students attend all classes and participate actively. One unexcused absence is tolerated, but additional ones will result in a lowered final grade.

Reading assignments are critical. Students are expected to read the material as it is assigned and come to class prepared.

Grading

- **Participation in class** discussion and section & one oral exposé **25%**
- **Two short papers** (3-4 pages) **25 %**
- **Mid-term exam** **25 %**
- **Final Exam** **25%**

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1.** September 10-14

### **Balzac's Paris, Seen from the *Province***

Session 1: Introduction

Session 2: Balzac, "The Two Poets," Part One of *Lost Illusions*

**WEEK 2.** September 17-21

### **Balzac's Paris and the Return to the *Province***

Session 1: Balzac, "A Great Man in Embryo" Part Two of *Lost Illusions*

Session 2: "An Inventor's Tribulations," Part Three of *Lost Illusions*

Michael Lucey, "The Shadow Economy of Queer Social Capital: Lucien de Rubempré and Vautrin." [CR]

**WEEK 3.** September 24-28

### **Department Store Shopping and Social Repercussions**

Session 1: Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*, Chapters 1-4

Session 2: Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*, Chapters 5-9

Selections from Michael B. Miller, *The Bon Marché: Bourgeois Culture and the Department Store, 1869-1920* [CR]

### **First short paper due**

**WEEK 4.** October 1-5

### **Shopping (continued) and the Birth of the Modern Intellectual**

Session 1: Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*, Chapters 10-14

Session 2: Zola, "J'accuse" [CR]

**WEEK 5.** October 8-12

### **Investing in Names: Proust's *Guermites Way***

Sessions 1 and 2: Proust, *The Guermites Way*, Part 1

**WEEK 6.** October 15-19

### **A Narrator's Social Climb: Proust's *Guermites Way***

Sessions 1 and 2: Proust, *The Guermites Way*, Part 2

17/10/2007 Guest lecture: Elyane Dezon Jones

**WEEK 7.** October 22-26

### **Midterm Review and Exam**

**WEEK 8.** November 5-9

**Americans (and others) in Paris**

Session 1: 05/11/2007 Guest Lecture: Camille Fort [CR]

Session 2: Readings from Henry James, Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Gail Scott

**WEEK 9.** November 12-16

**Paris, Poetry, and Politics: Baudelaire and Benjamin**

Session 1: Charles Baudelaire, selections from *Les Fleurs du Mal* and *Paris Spleen* [CR]

Session 2: Walter Benjamin, "Paris Capital of the Nineteenth Century." [CR]

**WEEK 10.** November 19-23

**Lyricism from Montmartre: Apollinaire and Max Jacob**

Session 1: Poems by Apollinaire and Max Jacob [CR]

Session 2: 21/11/2007 Guest Lecture: Jasmine Getz

**Second Short Paper Due**

**WEEK 11.** November 26-30

**Surrealist Paris and Elsewhere**

Session 1: André Breton, "Manifesto of Surrealism" [CR]

Session 2: Aimé Césaire, *Notebook of a return to the Native Land* [CR]

**WEEK 12.** December 3-7

***The Game of Love and Chance in the Banlieue*: Marivaux and Kéchiche**

Session 1: Marivaux, *The Game of Love and Chance* [CR]

Session 2: Film: *L'esquive*

**WEEK 13.** December 10-14

Final exam