

Prof. William Bishop
University of California, Paris
Summer Program

Tuesday 14h00-16h
Thursday 14h00-16h

CULTURE COURSE: HUMANITIES EMPHASIS PARIS IN LITERATURE AND ART

Paris is a city that has been constructed as much by the writers, philosophers and filmmakers who have inhabited, filmed and written about it as by the architects and city planners who collaborated with politicians to build it. This course will explore the interactions between the city of Paris and the ways it has been represented in literature and in art. Emphasis will be placed on the fact that the poems, books, paintings and monuments we'll be studying not only portray these interactions; they are themselves also the products of the kinds of interactions they portray. Paris is a city where interactions between art and society have been extremely rich, and we'll be touching on several key moments in the history of these interactions. Our course will begin with readings of poems by Baudelaire and Walter Benjamin's discussion of these poems in the context of the history of capitalism. This introduction to Paris as a volatile palimpsest of different histories will help guide us through the rest of the course which is arranged more or less chronologically. The course extends from the foundation of the Paris art Salons in the 18th century to the recent film *L'Esquive*, 2005 winner of the Cesar award for Best Film, which portrays a high school production of the early 18th century play *Games of Love and Chance* by Marivaux, which we'll also be reading in a brief return to the 18th century we will have started with. In between, we'll consider the topsy-turvy worlds of restoration Paris portrayed in Balzac's tale of Lucien de Rubempré's *Lost Illusions*, the way the French State and certain French writers consider and enact the task of the intellectual, as well as Belleville, the most multi-cultural neighborhood of Paris, which is the setting for Romain Gary's great 1975 novel, *The Life Before Us*. Group and individual visits are designed to help the social landscapes we're reading about and discussing in the classroom come to life.

Required texts:

Course Reader [CR]

Honoré de Balzac, *Lost Illusions*

Class requirements:

Your grade will be based on the following elements:

Visit Journals	40%
Final Exam	25%
Painting Description	20%
Class Participation	15%

The Visit Journals will be short, two-paged, typed and double-spaced accounts of the visits we will be undertaking in Paris, either as a group or on individual assignment. They are the most heavily weighted element of your grade, and should therefore be considered with the utmost attention. Elements of class reading should be brought into interaction with observations of the site you will have visited. The journal will be evaluated in terms of cohesiveness, logic, and originality. **They are due on the Tuesday of the week after the excursion.**

The Painting Description is a somewhat longer paper (around four typed and double-spaced pages) that describes one of the paintings that will have either have come up in our readings about the history of the Salon in Eighteenth-Century France or that you will have noticed during your visit at the Louvre. Choose a painting you like, or that you find interesting for historical reasons, or that seems interesting to you for aesthetic reasons – or hopefully even one that has all of the above characteristics. **It will be due on Thursday, July 24.**

The Final Exam will be held on **August 7** and will involve a choice between several possible essay topics. Class on August 5 will be a review session. You will be given the essay topics in advance, with the understanding that this demands a certain amount of preparation on your part.

Class Participation is required both in the classroom and on our group visits. Any absence must be excused by a doctor's note

Week 1 – Poetry, Modernity, Capitalism, Paris: Benjamin and Baudelaire

Wednesday June 24 – Poems by Baudelaire [CR], Independent visit to a local café.

Thursday June 26 – Continuation with Baudelaire, Benjamin, “Paris: Capital of the Nineteenth Century” [CR]

****Friday June 27 – Afternoon trip to Versailles****

Week 2 – The Beginnings of the Public Sphere: 18th Century Art Salons

Tuesday July 1 – Thomas Crow: Introduction to *Painters and Public Life in 18th Century Paris* [CR]

Wednesday July 2 – Self-guided visit to the Louvre

Thursday July 3 – Thomas Crow: “Greuze and Official Art,” Chapter 5 of *Painters and Public Life* [CR]

****Friday, July 4 – Afternoon Trip to Chartres****

Week 3 – Balzac's Paris: *Lost Illusions*

Tuesday July 8 – Balzac's Paris: *Lost Illusions*, pp. 151-333

Wednesday July 9 – Scavenger Hunt to sites of Balzac's Paris

**Lecture on “La Dame aux Camélias” by Chrisina Von Koehler
1 :00 pm**

Thursday July 10 – Balzac's Paris: *Lost Illusions*, pp. 333-476

Week 4 – Figures of the Intellectual: From the Panthéon to Zola and Sartre

Tuesday July 15 – Zola, “J'accuse.” Susan Rubin Suleiman, “Commemorating the Illustrious Dead,” from *Crises of Memory and the Second World War* [CR]

Wednesday July 16 – Group visit to the Pantheon.

Thursday July 17 – Jean-Paul Sartre, “A Plea for Intellectuals,” Roland Barthes, “The Eiffel Tower.” [CR]

****Friday July 18 – Afternoon Trip to Giverny****

Week 5 – “Multicultural” Paris: Romain Gary and Belleville

Tuesday July 22 – Selections from Romain Gary, *The Life Before Us* [CR]

Wednesday July 23 – Group Visit to Belleville

Thursday July 24 – Gérard Noiriel, “Immigration, Amnesia and Memory,” *French Historical Studies*, 19:2, 1995. **Painting Description Due.**

Week 6 – Marivaux in the *Banlieue*: Kéchéche’s *L’esquive*

Tuesday July 29 – Marivaux, *The Game of Love and Chance* [CR]

Wednesday July 30 – Screening of *L’esquive* by Abdellatif Kéchéche

Thursday July 31 – Interview with Kéchéche in *Cinéaste* [CR]

Week 7

Tuesday August 5 – Final Review

Thursday August 7 – Final Exam