

Prof. Christina von Koehler
University of California, Paris
Summer Program

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

CULTURE COURSE: SOCIAL SCIENCE EMPHASIS PARIS PAST AND PRESENT

In France, the past is always present. This class is designed to provide students with an understanding of the intellectual framework and historical references that inform the most volatile issues debated in France today. Thorough study of the history of Paris from political, economic, and social perspectives will equip the student to analyze recent articles on current events from both the French and the American perspective.

Required texts:

Colin Jones, Paris, The Biography of a City. (Penguin paperback edition, 2006).
Course Reader [CR]: All the other readings listed may be found in the reader.

Class requirements:

Your grade will be based on the following elements:

Visit Journals	40%
Final Exam	25%
“Napoleonic Project”	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 and discussion 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. **Due the Tuesday of the following week.**

The Napoleonic Project is a somewhat longer paper (around four typed and double-spaced pages). You will visit the exhibit “Napoleon, symbole des pouvoirs sous l’Empire“ at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs [107, rue de Rivoli. Metro: Palais Royal. Open Tu-Fri 11-18h, Sat-Sun 10-18, open late Thurs until 21h). You will chose an object or painting from the show, explain how it can help us understand what Napoleon was about and how it can explain how he was the culmination of past trends or precursor to future ones. **Due 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.

Read Jones’s history as if it were a novel. Don’t get bogged down in little facts and details, don’t try to make an outline of every event he mentions. Use it as background, to double-check facts. The first three chapters have not been assigned, but you may wish to skim them.

The essays in the course reader are intended as springboards for class discussions and should be read with care.

Note: topics that relate to material you may cover in French class have been flagged.

WEEK 1:

Wednesday June 25 – *Paris as palimpsest*

Introductory Lecture followed by a Class outing: The Walls of the Louvre

Reading: Jones: be sure to have read pp. 46-48 “The Philip Augustus Wall,” and pp. 96-99 “The Louvre.”

Print out and bring along the maps! (the first 5 pp. of the reader)

Thursday June 26 – *From Henri IV to Louis XIV: Building projects as a means to power*

Reading: Jones, Ch. 5, “Grand Siècle, Great Eclipse 1594-1715,” pp. 132-172.

[CR] “The Frogs who asked for a King,” from Jean de La Fontaine, Fables (1p.)

Friday, June 27 – all-program excursion to VERSAILLES

(Note: our class will make a special tour through the gardens with me in the afternoon.

Be sure to have read: Nathan Whitman, “Myth and Politics: Versailles and the Fountain of Latona,” from John C. Rule, ed. Louis XIV and the Craft of Kingship, pp. 286-301 [CR]).

WEEK 2:

Tuesday July 1 – *The Enlightenment rejection of Old European ideas on religion and politics. France and the US today : What is an ideal system?*

Readings: Jones, Ch. 6, “The Kingless Capital of the Enlightenment 1715-1789,” pp 173-214.

From Voltaire’s Treatise on Tolerance (1763) and his Philosophical Dictionary (1764); the baron d’Holbach, Good Sense (1770).

Mercier de la Rivière, The Natural Order ; Charles de Montesquieu, The Spirit of the Law (1748); Denis Diderot, essays from The Encyclopedia (1751), “On Slavery” and “On Political Authority.” [6 pp in CR]

(*French class : « les Lettres persanes » de Montesquieu*)

Wednesday July 2 –

- **Scavenger Hunt (individual) The Musée de Carnevalet (rooms 51-64 on the first floor and 101-113 on the second floor) 23, rue de Sévigné, (3rd arrondissement), open 10-6, closed Mondays. Describe one item or display that you feel best illustrates the issues at stake during the 18th century and connects those ideas to the French Revolution.**

Thursday July 3 – *Marie-Antoinette and other causes of the French revolution.*
France today: Women in the Public Eye: Segolene Royal's run for the French presidency.

Reading: Jones, Ch. 7, "Revolution and Empire 1789-1815," from p. 215 up to p. 235
Lynn Hunt, "The Many Bodies of Marie-Antoinette." In, The French Revolution, Recent Debates (Gary Cates, ed. , NY: Routledge Press, 1998. [CR]
(*French class* : « *L’Affaire du collier* »)
A newspaper account and statistics relating to the professions of those who attacked the Bastille on July 14, 1780 [2 pp.]
Excerpts from: Jane Kramer, "Letter from Europe: Round One, the Battle for France" in The New Yorker, April 23, 2007 [3pp in CR]

Friday, July 4 – all-program excursion to CHARTRES

WEEK 3:

Tuesday July 8 – *Napoleon: Enlightened, Despotic, Revolutionary, or what?*
France today : Nicolas Sarkozy, Napoleonic or what?

Reading: Jones, finish Ch. 7, pp. 235-262..
Selections from Napoleon's statements, private and public (3 pp).
(*French class* : « *Napoleon et Josephine* »)
Adam Gopnik, « Letter From France. The Human Bomb : the Sarkozy regime begins, » from The New Yorker, August 27, 2007 [4 pp. in CR]

Wednesday July 9 –

1:00 p.m. Lecture on "La Dame aux Camélias" and on what to look for at the Opéra Garnier.,

7:30 p.m. Ballet performance of "La Dame aux Camélias at the Opéra Garnier

Thursday July 10 – *Peasants and Workers: Timeless, unchanging misery?*
France (and the US today): The working poor.

Reading: Jones, Ch. 8, "Between Napoleons."
Robert Darnton, "Peasants tell Tales, The Meaning of Mother Goose," from The Great Cat Massacre (NY: Basic Books, 1984/1999, pp. 9-65) [CR]
(*French class* : *Charles Perrault and «Le Petit chaperon rouge»*)
Statistics on peasant mortality during the ancien régime (2pp in CR);
Jules Michelet, "Cheap Calico," excerpted from "The People;" (1pg in CR)
William Pfaff, "The French Riots: Will they change anything?" NYRB 12/15/05.
Paul Krugman, "Op Ed: Poverty is Poison," excerpted from the New York Times in Le Monde, Feb. 23, 2008. (In English.) [2pp in CR]

WEEK 4:

Tuesday July 15 – *Napoleon III: Authoritarian Populism and its weaknesses.*

France and the US today: who owns a city?

Reading: Jones, Ch. 9, “Haussmannism and the City of Modernity,” pp. 299-343.

Paul Goldberger, “Eminent Dominion, Rethinking the Legacy of Robert Moses,” from The New Yorker, Feb 2, 2007 [3 pp. in CR].

Wednesday July 16 – -

Class outing: The Fairgrounds of Expo 1900

Thursday July 17 – *The Third Republic: Sacre Coeur vs. Eiffel Tower.*

France Today: Should the state guarantee freedom to worship or freedom from worship?

Reading: Jones, Ch. 10, “The Anxious Spectacle, 1889-1918,” pp. 344-377.

Jane Kramer, « Taking the Veil : How France’s public schools became the battleground in a culture war, » from the New Yorker, Nov. 22, 2004 [10 pp. in CR]

Friday, July 18 – **all-program excursion to GIVERNY**

WEEK 5:

Tuesday July 22 – *World War I and its aftermath*

Today: Memory and memorials

Reading: Jones, Chapter 10, cont. (378-84) and Ch. 11, “Faded Dreams, Lost Illusions 1918-1845,” up to page 413.

Roland Doregelès, “That Fabulous Day”(1 p.). Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front (1929), [4 pp. in CR]

Obituary of Lazare Ponticelli, age 110, from the IHT, March 13, 2008. [1p. CR]
(*French class : les poilus.*)

Wednesday July 23 – - **Class outing: The “Memorial des déportés” at the end of the Ile de la Cité and to the nearby Marais.**

Thursday July 24 – *WWII: Defeat, Occupation, Collaboration, Resistance, Liberation*

Today: can you still be proud of your country?

Reading: Jones, Ch. 11 continued, pp. 413-425.

Robert O. Paxton, “Inside the Panic,” in The New York Review of Books, Nov. 22, 2007; and Tony Judt, “The Problem of Evil,” in NYRB, Feb. 14, 2008. [5 pp. in CR]

(*French class : Les Plages de débarquement.*)

NAPOLEONIC PROJECT DUE TODAY !

WEEK 6:

Tuesday July 29 – *Cultural Imperialism, then and now.*

Reading: Jones, Ch 12, “The Remaking of Paris 1945-1995,” from p. 426 to p. 456.
Gene Lebovics, “Crisis of Culture, Crisis of State,” in Patricia Yaeger, ed. The Geography of Identity (Ann Arbor: U Michigan Press, 1996), pp. 223-241. [CR]

Wednesday July 30 – **Film screening:** *Chacun cherche son chat* by Cedric Klapisch (1999.)

Thursday July 31 – *Do the French, after all, “like change?”*

Reading: Jones, Ch 12. continued, pp. 456-463, and “Conclusion,” pp. 465-474.

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

Herbert Muschamp, “Growing Accustomed to Paris’s New Face,” from The New York Times, June 18, 1995. [4 pp. in CR]

WEEK 7:

Tuesday August 5 – **Final Review**

Thursday August 7 – **Final Exam**