

UC Center Program Courses - Fall 2011
PCC 129. **Parisian Voices in Literature**
Prof. Carole Viers-Andronico

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Lecture

Wednesday/Thursday 10:30 am -12:00 pm

Office Hours

By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will engage in discussions prompted by a multiplicity of voices that make up what has been often referred to as the Parisian mosaic – a mosaic whose colorful tiles represent a collection of diverse and multivalent identities. Students will explore how the voices that have emerged in the past several decades bring myriad perspectives, ranging from “traditional” French culture to first and subsequent generation immigrant cultures, many of which come from former French colonies in the Francophone world, to bear on Parisian society and how these contemporary voices take a sometimes playful but often critical look at the identity of their post-war and postcolonial society. Through the study of historical events alongside critical and literary texts, students will analyze representations of the city as a playground for desire, as a forum for consumer delight, and as a breeding ground for social inequality, among other things. The course will, therefore, focus on examining the different social worlds that make contemporary Paris such a fascinating, diverse, and culturally important city. Through readings and class excursions to sites important to their understanding of the texts, students will trace some of the ways French alongside the more problematically termed Francophone writers and filmmakers have made their sundry voices heard over the past half a century. **5.0 credits**

COURSE MATERIALS

Raymond Queneau, *Zazie in the Metro*
Georges Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties*
Leila Sebbar, *Sherazade: Aged 17, Dark Curly Hair, Green Eyes, Missing*
Faiza Guène, *Just Like Tomorrow*
Course Reader ([CR] hereafter)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and site visits is mandatory. It is essential that students attend all classes and participate actively. As per the UC Paris Attendance Policy, unexcused absences will result in a lowered final grade.

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.

Grade Breakdown:

Participation in class discussion 25%

Two short papers (3-4 pages) 25 %

Mid-term exam 25 %

Final Exam 25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Parisian Voices and Desire I: Purging the Past and the Rise of Consumerism

Week 1

Session 1: Introduction

Session 2: Kristin Ross “Hygiene and Modernization” from *Fast Cars, Clean Bodies: Decolonization and the Reordering of French Culture* [CR].
Film: selections from *The Sorrow and the Pity*

Week 2

Session 1: Queneau, *Zazie in the Metro*

Session 2: Queneau, *Zazie in the Metro*

Week 3

Session 1: Queneau, *Zazie in the Metro*

Session 2: Film: Louis Malle’s *Zazie in the Metro*

Parisian Voices and Desire II: The Language of Advertising and the Loss of the Self

Week 4

Session 1: Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties*

Session 2: Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties*

Week 5

Session 1: Perec, *Things: A Story of the Sixties*

Session 2: **First short paper due.**
Echenoz, “Plan of Occupancy” from *Paris Tales* [CR]

Week 6

Session 1: Echenoz, “Plan of Occupancy” from *Paris Tales* [CR]

Session 2: Site visit – “Plan of Occupancy” and the Canal Saint Martin

Week 7

Session 1: **Review**

Session 2: **Midterm Exam**

Parisian Voices and Immigration : Négritude, Créolité, and Hybridity

Week 8

Session 1: Mireille Rosello, “Introduction” to Césaire’s *Notebook* [CR]

Jean-Paul Sartre, excerpt from *Black Orpheus* [CR]

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

Session 2: Edward Said, “Reflections on Exile” [CR]

Maryse Condé “Family Portrait” from *Paris Tales* [CR]

Parisian Voices in Beur Fiction

Week 9

Session 1: Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?” [CR]

Sebbar, *Sherazade: Aged 17, Dark Curly Hair, Green Eyes, Missing*

Session 2: Sebbar, *Sherazade: Aged 17, Dark Curly Hair, Green Eyes, Missing*

Week 10

Session 1: Sebbar, *Sherazade: Aged 17, Dark Curly Hair, Green Eyes, Missing*

Session 2: Museum visit – Paintings in *Sherazade*

Parisian Voices in the Banlieue**Week 11**

Session 1: **Second Short Paper Due.**

Hargreaves, “Introduction” and “History and Biography” [CR]

Guène, *Just Like Tomorrow*

Session 2: Guène, *Just Like Tomorrow*

Week 12

Session 1: Guène, *Just Like Tomorrow*

Session 2: Film: Kassovitz’s *La Haine*

Week 13

Final exam