

UC Center Program Courses - Fall 2011

PCC 111. Histories of Paris

Professor Christina von Koehler

Lecture: Wednesdays 3:00-4:30

Site Visits: Thursdays 12:30-2:00 (Group A) or 3:00-4:30 (Group B)

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This class examines how the history of political ideology and social conflict in France since the Middle Ages has been embodied in the urban landscape of Paris. More than in any other city, the meaning, message, and significance to state and nation of most Parisian sites was -- and continues to be -- violently contested. We will look at the histories of the conception, construction, and public perception of Parisian monuments and place their stories within the larger context of the development of the French state and of French national identity. Major events of French history form the chronological backbone for this course, with emphasis placed on the forces that literally shaped some of the city's most emblematic neighborhoods and monuments. The readings are selected from works by specialists in French political, urban, and social history; and the class will include weekly visits to sites in Paris, as the student learns to "read" architecture and to use the city as a rich primary source for historical analysis.

Be advised: while no prior knowledge of French history is required, a high level of commitment to learning about France is. All of the writing for this class demands careful consideration of both readings for class and information given during site visits. This is not a class for tourists, but a class that engages in the complex history of Paris and France. You will be evaluated on the richness and clarity of your engagement with that history.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Alistair Horne The Seven Ages of Paris.

Course reader

English-language booklets [*Itinéraire* readers] have been put on reserve:

The Pantheon; The Arch of Triumph; The Palais Garnier; The Eiffel Tower.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

* **Class Participation** is required both in the classroom and on all of our group visits

Students are expected to have done all the readings and to participate both in class and to comment at the weekly site visits.

The visits are not optional, as they form the core of the class. In case of absence you are required to bring a doctor's note to the UC office. Thus "I have a plane to catch" WILL affect your final grade. The meeting points for the walks are indicated below. *The Class Participation component of your grade includes arriving on time*: making your classmates wait for you while they shiver in the cold can at best be described as rude. (Call the cell # if you are lost)

* **Two Monument analyses -- 2-3 typed double-spaced pages -- must make the connections between some aspect of 1) the lecture 2) the particular site visit, and 3) the readings,**

Pick a theme -- zero in on a topic. Your paper should absolutely NOT be a dry summary of "then we did this, then we saw that." Nor be called "paper #1:" invent a **title!**

Be creative! Comparison between France and other countries is welcome. Your work will be evaluated in terms of cohesiveness, logic, and originality. Start from those subjects in the syllabus, a line from one of the readings... see if you can use and make the connections between multiple sources: readings, visits, and your life.

Due the Wednesday after the visit to the site visited. *Those sent via e-mail will not be accepted. Nor are two on the day of the final.*

* The **Invalides "Scavenger Hunt"** sends you out on your own (or with friends) to one of the most symbolic sites in Paris. A list of questions to consider will be distributed in class. **Due October 20.**

***One 3-4 page paper on a “monument” you have chosen.**

Just what is a monument? A building, a book, a person, a street....? Argue why the site/object/person you have chosen – and researched – merits being included in this category.

This paper is **due, at the latest, by Week 10** (ie. Nov. 23).

Note: *proofreading of all your printed work is required!* I can stay at the center after class should you need time to look over your print-out. Catch all the typos and grammatical errors you can and just write all over the typescript! Pristine printouts larded with sloppy mistakes automatically lose points i.e. the essay which repeatedly described “plagues” rather than “plaques.” Written work, no matter how incisive and original, that is filled with these kinds of mistakes is guaranteed not to receive an “A.” However, I would be glad to work *with* you on improving your writing style or overcoming difficulties with grammar. (A summary of frequent errors, easily fixed, will be distributed to the class).

* **Midterm**

* **Final**

SCHEDULE:

Week 1 - Paris as Palimpsest

Sept 14 & 15

Readings:

Horne: Skim through the Introduction and the first section of age Age One. Focus on Philippe Auguste as of “The Capital City” in the second chapter. Section three is to be read for fun, but not if you are feeling overwhelmed. For the second class, master Age Two through section 5 (“Worth a Mass”)

Map: “Paris ca. 1200”

Orest Ranum, Paris in the Age of Absolutism, (Penn State U Press, 2002), pp. 87-106.

Week 2 – In Spite of Paris: the Means and Ends of Louis XIV

Sept 21 Readings:

Horne, Age Two, Section 6 (“Regicide, Regent and Richelieu”) and Age Three, Sections 7, 8 and 9 [up to: “Another Regency.”].

Nathan Whitman, “Myth and Politics: Versailles and the Fountain of Latona,” from John C. Rule, ed., Louis XIV and the Craft of Kingship. (Ohio State Univ. Press, 1969), pp. 286-301.

Sept 22 *Site visit: Outside the Louvre; Representations of Power*

Meeting point: **outside the Metro stop Louvre/Rivoli** (Line #1)
(bring along the Louvre maps from the reader)

Week 3 - Erase, Deface, Replace: Revolutionary Paris

Sept 28 Readings:

Horne, Age Three, finish Chapter 9

Richard D. E. Burton, Blood in the City, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001), Chapter 2 “Violent Origins, The Taking of the Bastille,” pp. 26-40.

Priscilla P. Ferguson, Paris as Revolution, (Berkeley: U California Press, 1994), pp. 11-14, 16-19, 22, 25-29, 36-37.

James Leith, "Ephemera: Civic Education Through Images," from Peter Jones, ed., The French Revolution in Social and Political Perspective (London: Arnold Press, 1996), pp. 188-202.

Statistics relating to the Terror.

Itineraire reader: The Pantheon

Sept 29 Site visit: The Panthéon

Meeting point: **in front of the Pantheon.** (*RER B Luxembourg*) If you are coming from the Saint Michel direction, be at the back of the train and head for the nearest exit. Find rue Soufflot. If it is raining, inside.

Week 4 - Glory in Stone: Napoleon I's Paris

Oct 5 Readings:

Horne, all of Age Four.

Map of Napoleon I's Paris projects.

Oct 6 Site visit: L'Arc de triomphe

Meeting point:

GROUP 1: **on the corner (pairs) of the Ave. des Champs Elysées, outside the Metro stop Charles de Gaulle/Etoile** - facing the arch, you are on the right hand side of the avenue. First, we will be walking around the base, then walking up. (Metros: #1, 2, 6, and RER A)

GROUP 2: **at the top of the Arch.** Find the metro/RER exit clearly marked for the Arch, then take the underpass out to the monument. At a booth to your left as you are about to emerge from the tunnel, use your Accent card to get a free ticket and climb the 283 steps to the top. I will be waiting up there.

Week 5 - 1815 to 1851: Legacies of/and Revolution(s)

Oct 12 Readings:

Horne, Age Five, chapter 13

Burton, Blood in the City, Chapter 4, "Vendôme/Invalides, Paris of the Bonapartes 1802-1871," pp. 72-89.

Oct 13 Invalides Scavenger Hunt

Closest metro: "St. François-Xavier" on the #13 or "La Tour Maubourg" on the #8.

Week 6 - Impossible Things are Happening: Napoleon III, Haussmann, the Second Empire

Oct 19 Readings:

Horne, Age Five, chapter 14

Jordan, Transforming Paris, Ch. 8 "The Implacable Axis of a Straight Line," pp. 185-210.

Paul Goldberger, "Toddlin' Town," from The New Yorker, March 9, 2009, pp. 80-81.

Paul Goldberger, "Eminent Dominion, Rethinking the Legacy of Robert Moses," from The New Yorker, Feb 2, 2007, pp. 83-85.

Itineraire reader: The Palais Garnier

Oct 20 *Site visit: Le Palais Garnier*

Meeting point: **On the front steps of the Opéra Garnier** (Metro stops: Opera (#3, 7, or 8) or *Chaussee d'Antin/Lafayette* (# 3 or #9)).

Week 7

Oct 26: Catch-up

Oct 27: In-class **MIDTERM**

MID-SEMESTER BREAK (Oct. 31- Nov. 6)

Week 8 - Blood and Iron: Constructing the Third Republic

Nov 9 Readings:

Horne, *Age Five*, chapters 14 and 15.

David Harvey, *Paris, Capital of Modernity* (New York: Routledge, 2003). Ch. 13: "The Building of the Basilica of *Sacre Coeur*," pp. 311-340.

Adam Gopnik, "Comment: Memorials," *The New Yorker*, May 9, 2011, pp. 21-22.

Letter to the editor, "Tangled Tributes," by J. William Harris, *The New Yorker*, June 6, 2011, p.7.

Nov 11 *Site visit: Sacré-Coeur (with a view of the Eiffel Tower)*

Meeting point : **on the steps of Sacré-Coeur.**

You can take the Metro #2, to the "Anvers" station. Then. Walk north from the Place d'Anvers up the rue de Steinkerque. When you reach the Place Suzanne Valadon - to the left of the carousel -- take the funicular up to the church (Navigo or regular metro ticket works).

Week 9 - Built to Impress, But Not to Last: Traces of the Universal Expos

Nov 16 Readings:

Horne, *Age Six*, chapters 16 and 17

Boyd C. Schafer, "Defining Nationalism" from *Nationalism: Myth and Reality*. (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1955), pp. 7-8.

E.J. Hobsbawm, "Mass-Producing Traditions: Europe 1870-1914," in Hobsbawm, E.J. and Terrence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), excerpts: pp. 263-273 and 303-307.

Henri Loyrette, "The Eiffel Tower," in Pierre Nora, et al. *Realms of Memory: Rethinking the French Past*. Arthur Goldhammer, trans. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996), vol. III, pp. 349-374.

Itineraire reader: The Eiffel Tower.

Images from the Universal Expos of 1900 and 1937

Nov 17: *Site visit: The Petit Palais and the grounds of the 1900 World's Fair*

Meeting point: **at Place Clemenceau by the statue of de Gaulle** (Metros: #1 or #13 to *Champs Elysees-Clemenceau*)

Week 10- Do Monuments Heal or Hurt? Avoiding Memory in the 20th century.

Nov 23 Readings:

Horne, *Age Six*, chapter 18; *Age Seven*, chapter 19.

Orest Ranum, *Paris in the Age of Absolutism*, (Penn State U Press, 2002), pp. 151-155.

Robert O. Paxton, "Inside the Panic," in *The New York Review of Books*, Nov. 22, 2007, pp. 49-50.

Tony Judt, "The Problem of Evil," in *NYRB*, Feb. 14, 2008, pp. 33-35.

John Tagliabue, "Both Hero and Traitor," *NYT*, January 3, 2011, p. A8.

Jon Lee Anderson, "Lorca's Bones," *The New Yorker*, June 22, 2009, pp. 44-48.

Original monument paper due

Nov 24 Site visit: *Le Musée de l'art et de l'histoire du judaïsme*

Meeting point: **In the courtyard of the museum** at 71, rue du Temple (4^{ème}). Closest metro: *Rambuteau* (#11)

Week 11 - The Identity Crisis of Postwar Paris: why do Les Halles still matter?

Nov 30 Readings:

Horne, *Age Seven*, chapters 20 and 21

Colin Jones, *Paris: Biography of a City*, (London: Penguin, 2004), pp.447-454.

Jason Epstein, "New York: The Prophet," in *NYRB*, Aug. 13, 2009, pp. 33-35.

Images of the destruction of *Les Halles*.

Richard Cobb, "The Assassination of Paris," in his *People and Places* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985), pp. 187-199.

Adam Gopnik, "Times Regained," *The New Yorker*, March 22, 2004, pp. 90-95

Christopher Caldwell, "Revolt High Rises," the *New York Times Magazine*, Nov. 27, 2005.

Dec 1 Site visit: *Looking for Les Halles*

Meeting point:

Group 1 in front of The Centre Pompidou (4th arr.) Closest Metro: "Hotel de Ville" (Metro #1) or "Rambuteau" (#11)

Group 2 inside the church of St. Eustache Closest metros: "Etienne Marcel" (#4); or "Les Halles" using the exit for rue Rambuteau.

Week 12 - Presidential Designs: The Fad for "Très grands projets" since Mitterand

Dec 7 Readings:

Herbert Muschamp, "Growing Accustomed to Paris's New Face," from *The New York Times*, June 18, 1995, pp. 1 and 33.

Richard Bernstein, "The Death and life of a Great Chinese City," in *NYRB*, March 26, 2009, pp. 40-42.

Martin Filler, "Up in the Park," *NYRB*, August 13, 2009, pp. 12,14.

Steven Erlanger, "Sarkozy's Plan to Reimagine the French Capital[...]," *The New York Times*, June 11, 2009.

Michael Kimmelman, « Sarkozy's Museum Plan Inflames Identity Debate, » *NYT*, March 19, 2011.

Dec 8 Site visit: TBA

Meeting point: **TBA**

Week 13:

Dec 14: Review session/ discussion

Dec 15: In-class *FINAL*