

Prof. William Bishop  
University of California, Paris  
Summer Program 2011

Tuesday 14h00-16h  
Thursday 14h00-16h  
(unless otherwise indicated)

## **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 art and in literature. 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 their history. 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 with a first section that will take advantage of two major exhibits in Paris, one devoted to Manet and the other devoted to Manet's followers, the impressionists. In the second half of the course, we will investigate novelistic and cinematic representations of Paris in Balzac, Gary and Kechiche. Group and individual visits are designed to help the social and artistic landscapes we're reading about and discussing in the classroom begin to come to life.

### **Required texts:**

Course Reader [CR]

Honoré de Balzac, *Old Goriot*

Romain Gary, *The Life Before Us*

### **Class requirements:**

Your grade will be based on the following elements:

Visit Journals and Class Presentation	25%
Painting Description/ Literary Analysis	25%
Final Exam	25%
Class Participation	25%

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. Elements of class reading and discussion should be brought into interaction with observations of the site or exhibit you will have visited. The journal will be evaluated in terms of cohesiveness, logic, and originality. On Thursday, July 7, you and your assigned group will discuss a painting from your visits to the exhibits to Orsay and Hôtel de Ville.

The Painting Description/Literary Analysis is a somewhat longer paper (around five typed and double-spaced pages) that will describe one of the paintings you have come across during the first part of our course or analyze an aspect of one of the novels you will have read in the second part of the course. It is due on Thursday, July 28. The topic for your description or analysis should be approved by me by Thursday July 21.

The Final Exam will be held on August 4 and will involve a choice between several possible essay topics. Class on August 2 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 or else brings your final grade down by a notch.

**Wednesday June 22** - Poems by Baudelaire [CR]

**Thursday June 23** – Continuation with Baudelaire, Benjamin, “Paris: Capital of the Nineteenth Century” [CR]

**Tuesday June 28** – T.J. Clark, “Olympia’s Choice” [CR]

**Wednesday June 29** – Lecture on “La Dame aux Camélias” by Chrisina Von Koehler

**Thursday June 30** – Manet, preparation for visit and **visit to exhibit**

**Tuesday July 5** – T.J. Clark, “The View from Notre-Dame” [CR]

**Wednesday July 6** – **Independent Visit in groups to the Hôtel de Ville exhibit**

**Thursday July 7** – Impressionists, group presentations of individual paintings [CR]

**Tuesday July 12** – Balzac’s Paris: *Père Goriot*

**Wednesday July 13** – Balzac’s Paris: *Père Goriot*

**Thursday July 14** – NO CLASS – BASTILLE DAY

**Tuesday July 19** – Romain Gary, *The Life Before Us*, Noiriél, “Immigration, Amnesia and Memory” [CR]

**Wednesday July 20** – **Group Visit to Belleville**

**Thursday July 21** – Romain Gary, *The Life Before Us*

**Tuesday July 26** – Marivaux, *The Game of Love and Chance* [CR]

**Wednesday July 27** – **Screening of *L’esquive* by Abdellatif Kéchiche**

**Thursday July 28** – Interview with Kéchiche in *Cinéaste* [CR]

**Tuesday August 2** – **Final Review**

**Thursday August 4** – **Final Exam**