

COURSE DETAIL

PARIS AS PALIMPSEST

Country

France

Host Institution

UC Center, Paris

Program(s)

French in Paris, Food, History, and Culture in Paris

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Sociology Political Science History

UCEAP Course Number

104

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

PARIS AS PALIMPSEST

UCEAP Transcript Title

PARIS AS PALIMPSEST

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

The goal of this course is to increase students' cultural sensitivity through an in-depth examination of the many layers that make up French history while at the same time exposing them to how this history shaped the physical city of Paris itself. Through comparative examination of current events in France and the US, the course also sensitizes them to differences in cultural norms. Lastly, the course seeks to increase students' understanding of how a nation's "eternal values and universal truths" develop in response to a people's particular historical experiences (e.g., the place of religion in the public sphere). The assigned readings and topics in the syllabus vary from year to year in order to align them with recent major events. Past units have included a variety of topics, such as: "The Veil", Health insurance as a social or a socialist program; Presidents and the use and extent of power/elections; Women in the public eye; War and terrorism; Income distribution and the human costs of urban development. In each unit, the current issue is paired with careful study of related moments in French history (e.g., Huguenots in the 16th c. with Muslims today; a president with Napoleon). Readings expose students to the various ways history is/can be written. Readings include: First-hand accounts and editorials; Essays by specialists in political, social, economic, and urban history; Seminal texts of reference (e.g., "The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen"). In this course students develop written and oral rhetorical skills as well as their analytical skills through class discussion on readings, in which close attention is paid to both style and the use of evidence to support an argument, in-class analysis of things like political cartoons, and the deciphering of political messages embedded in the iconography of monuments' façades. Students are presented techniques to read visual evidence. Students engage in a photo-essay project that sends them to the Invalides in small groups. The final exam tests students on their ability to compare a set of recent newspaper articles/editorials to explain the differences in American and French attitudes by providing the appropriate historical background.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

Host Institution Course Title

PARIS AS PALIMPSEST

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

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