COURSE DETAIL

LE BONHEUR: HAPPINESS IN PARIS AND IN FRENCH CULTURAL PRODUCTION
Country France
Host Institution UC Center, Paris
Program(s) Food, History, and Culture in Paris
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Women’s & Gender Studies History Comparative Literature
UCEAP Course Number 123
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title LE BONHEUR: HAPPINESS IN PARIS AND IN FRENCH CULTURAL PRODUCTION
UCEAP Transcript Title HAPPINESS IN PARIS
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units

3.30

Course Description

While the pursuit of happiness is an ideal present in many Western cultures, for the French, happiness takes various forms: a certain joie de vivre, an appreciation of life's simple pleasures, and an affinity for companionship. Why is it, then, that France is consistently ranked as one of the least happy countries in Europe according to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)? The French may be known as contentious grumblers who are prone to flights of melancholy and often embroil themselves in gloomy philosophical reflection. And yet, the deeply-ingrained cultural desire to live a full life and find happiness is undeniably a major concern for the French. This course explores representations of happiness in French cultural production, with an emphasis on the city of Paris. Through the study of socio-cultural and historical events as well as critical, literary, and cinematic texts, students explore how the concept of happiness manifests itself in unique ways throughout recent history and in diverse social worlds. From the nineteenth century to the present, happiness has taken many forms: material seduction, consumer delight, everyday bliss, personal independence. The course explores how authors and filmmakers encourage us to reflect on a deceptively simple question: What is happiness and where can we find it? Is happiness to be found in the people and things that surround us, or are we to find it within ourselves?

Language(s) of Instruction
English

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Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
UC Center Paris

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed

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