COURSE DETAIL

FRENCH YOUTH CULTURE
Country France
Host Institution UC Center, Paris
Program(s) Food, History, and Culture in Paris
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Film & Media Studies Comparative Literature
UCEAP Course Number 114
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title FRENCH YOUTH CULTURE
UCEAP Transcript Title FRENCH YOUTH CULTR
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

This interdisciplinary course offers a captivating exploration of the dynamic portrayal of French youth from the post-World War I era to the present day. Delving into the multifaceted experiences of French youth, it examines how literature, cinema, and societal structures intersect to shape the coming-of-age journey. While the course distinguishes between three pivotal periods in the history of French youth – the interwar period leading up to World War II and its aftermath, the transformative era from May 1968 to the 1990s, and the contemporary landscape from the 2000s to the present – the approach to primary material remains predominantly thematic. Throughout these epochs, the course analyzes how representations of youth have evolved, exploring themes of identity, rebellion, sexuality, and societal expectations. This exploration is guided by questions such as: how do educational institutions shape the experiences and identities of French youth, as depicted in literature and cinema? How do themes of rebellion and revolution intersect with coming-of-age narratives throughout French history? In what ways do representations of youth in cultural artifacts contribute to our understanding of historical events, such as May 1968? How do cultural artifacts produced by and for youth communities challenge mainstream portrayals? Through novels, graphic novels, films, songs, and first-hand experiences of initiatives targeting young people in Paris and its suburbs, the course provides a comprehensive understanding of French youth culture. Analyzing these materials fosters a nuanced comprehension of French youth culture and its representation in various media, equipping students with tools to critically evaluate portrayals of youth in contemporary society.

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 2024-2025

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