COURSE DETAIL

EXPLORING PARIS: CITY AND LANGUAGE
Country France
Host Institution UC Center, Paris
Program(s) Food, History, and Culture in Paris
UCEAP Course Level Lower Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Urban Studies History French
UCEAP Course Number 84
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title EXPLORING PARIS: CITY AND LANGUAGE
UCEAP Transcript Title EXPLORING PARIS
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

The city and language course introduces students to French history, culture, and language through team-taught instruction. In the “City as Public Forum” sessions, students are introduced to French history and culture through a series of lectures and site visits. Students discover some of the fascinating ways the core principles of social justice were tested in theory and practice on the streets of Paris in the past and explore how they evolved into the pillars of French society today. The course focuses on just how an ideal society should be forged, where all are free individuals and members of a cohesive community at the same time. Trying to make individuals believe—as religions do—in the primacy of the collective, and in its concomitant goal of protecting human rights, is at the core of social justice in France. From 52 B.C.E to today, France has been an exemplar of how—and how not—to construct a just society. To render these values visible, and therefore legible, to all by adding a physical dimension—whether constructive or destructive—to the usual means of establishing laws or setting policies, is what distinguishes the history of France's capital city of Paris. Those who control Paris—be they monarchs, revolutionaries, or presidents, past and present—believe that erecting all kinds of physical structures will render their values concrete and immutable. The ideal French society did not always necessarily mean a democratic or inclusive one. Since the French Revolution, however, institutionalizing the concept of “liberty, equality, and fraternity” has been France's greatest universal achievement and a source of constant upheaval, eliciting a unique form of secular activism that has led to targeting buildings and monuments that no longer reflect the collective's values. Students discuss how the diverse social actors, who constitute “the French,” continue to thrust their bodies and minds into the physical spaces of the public sphere in the pursuit of social justice. In the “Unlocking French” sessions, students learn targeted language skills through situational communication, so they have the opportunity to use everything they learn as they go about their daily activities.

Language(s) of Instruction

Host Institution Course Number
Host Institution Course Title EXPLORING PARIS: CITY AND LANGUAGE
Host Institution Course Details https://uceap.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/DocumentLibrary/IQCRLdyivRfVQbEEaHqlqbIaAe9J…
Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

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