

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES
FR1001B Unlocking Paris
Winter 2024

Instructor: Chris Roulston

Lecture times: Tuesdays 10:30-12:30; Thursdays 10:30-11:30

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Office Hour: Thursdays 12:00-1:00, or on Zoom

Course Description:

This course is a 1000-level French course, taught in English, and open to all students. It will offer students an interdisciplinary approach to the city of Paris, through literature, visual culture, film, history and myth. From its seventeenth-century reputation as the first modern city to its current role as the city of fashion, from the French Revolution to the 2023 riots, from the Louvre to the Eiffel Tower, and from its popular cultural associations as the city of romance, Paris will be explored in all its richness and diversity. We will take a journey through this quasi-mythical global city, asking what makes Paris "Paris", and why it has attracted admirers from across the world.

Books to buy

FR1001B *Unlocking Paris*, Course Package

AVAILABLE AT THE UWO BOOKSTORE

Assignments:

Presence	5%
Forum Posts (x 3)	15%
Test (1.5 hours) (during main class)	20%
Forum Presentation (400 words)	10%
Essay (800 words)	20%
Final examination (2 hours)	30%
Total	100%

Dates for Assignments

Assignment	Percentage value	Date Assigned	Date Due
Forum Presentation (400 words)	10%	Thursday 18 January	Thursday 8 February
Midterm Test (in-class, 1.5 hours)	15%	Tuesday 13 February	N/A
Essay (800 words)	20%	Tuesday 27 February	Tuesday 26 March
Forums (200 words)	15%	Write 3 Forums	N/A
Presence	5%	Ongoing	N/A
Final Examination (2 hours)	30%	April 2024	N/A

Course Policies

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for FR1001B

Participation and Attendance: Students are expected to attend both weekly lectures and come prepared to discuss the week's readings. Should a student need to miss class, a courtesy explanatory email is appreciated.

NOTE: If a student misses 2 weeks of classes without a proper reason (e.g. illness, bereavement), they will receive a zero grade for Presence and Participation.

E-mail Policy: Emails by the instructor will be responded to within 48 hours.

Medical Policy:

- a. Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.
- b. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April
- c. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course.
- d. Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Assignment Submission: The essay assignment must be submitted electronically via Turnitin on OWL.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will only be accepted without penalty if a prior agreement with the instructor has been made, or if a valid medical certificate is provided. In the event that a student is unable to meet a deadline, for medical or other reasons, it is the student's responsibility to negotiate an alternate deadline with the instructor, prior to the original assignment deadline. Revised deadlines will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Students who submit late assignments without making a prior agreement with the instructor will be penalized 2% for every 24-hour period after the assignment due date. The 2% penalty also applies to students who fail to submit an assignment on the agreed upon alternate date.

Missed assignments and academic accommodation:

Academic Accommodation must be requested within 28 days of the missed assignment

Electronic devices in tests and exams:

No electronic devices may be used in tests or exams

Turnitin.com: The essay assignment for this course must be submitted to turnitin.com on or before the assignment due date. Submissions can be made via link on the course OWL page. "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com. (<http://www.turnitin.com>) (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>)

Scholastic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2009/pg113.html>.

Plagiarism: "Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see the 'Scholastic Offense Policy' in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking." - U.W.O. Senate statement on plagiarism.

This course will:

- * Enable students to analyse and critically approach the idea of the city and urban space
- * Provide an interdisciplinary understanding of the city of Paris
- * Develop an understanding of French history and culture
- * Develop critical thinking, and analytical oral and writing skills

Statement of Recognition

"Western University is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. In close proximity to Western, there are 3 local First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the development of Canada."

FR1001B *Unlocking Paris*: Course Schedule

All readings are either in the Course Pack or provided as links in 'Course Content' on OWL

Week 1: Tuesday 9 January (2 hours)*What is a City?*

Introductory lecture

POEM: Charles Bukowski (American 1920-1994), "Paris"

YOUTUBE: *Highlights of Paris: Eiffel and Monet to Crème Brûlée* (26 mins)

Week 1: Thursday 11 January (1 hour)*Walking in the City and Mapping Out Paris*

READINGS: Michel de Certeau, "Walking in the City" in *The Cultural Studies Reader* (1993) [158-160 course pack]

Lauren Elkin, *Flâneuse: Women Walk the City in Paris, New York, Tokyo, Venice, and London* (2016) 3-23 course pack]

Forum Post (200 words)

Week 2: Tuesday 16 January (2 hours)*Historical Beginnings: How Paris Became Paris*

READINGS: Joan DeJean, "The Bridge Where Paris Became Modern" from *How Paris Became Paris* (2014) [21-44 course pack]

ART: *Pont Neuf* (1578), Matthaus Merian, *Pont Neuf* (Map of Paris) (1615), Nicolas-Jean-Baptiste Raguenet, *Pont Neuf* (1763), Pierre-Auguste Renoir, *Pont Neuf* (1872)

Forum Post (200 words)

Week 2: Thursday 18 January (1 hour)*Paris: City of Myths and the Eiffel Tower*

READING: Roland Barthes, "The Eiffel Tower and Other Mythologies" (1979) [course pack]

Forum Presentation Topics Handed Out (400 words, 10%)

Week 3: Tuesday 23 January (2 hours)*Paris and the Enlightenment I*

Enlightenment Paris and Cultural Relativism

READINGS: Montesquieu, *Persian Letters: Letters 28, 30, 36, 98* (1721) [course pack]

Mme de Graffigny, *Lettres d'une Péruvienne: Letters XX, XXVIII, XXIX* (1747) [course pack]

Forum Post (200 words)

Week 3: Thursday 25 January (1 hour)*Paris and the Enlightenment II*

Café and Salon Culture

READINGS: Dena Goodman, "The Enlightenment Salonnière," from *The Republic of Letters: A Cultural History of the French Enlightenment* (1994) [73-89 course pack]

Hattie Ditton, "Café Procope and the Birth of French Coffee Culture" (5 October 2016)

URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

RECOMMENDED READING: Adam Gopnik, "A Tale of Two Cafés" from *Paris to the Moon* (2000) [78-85 course pack]

Week 4: Tuesday 30 January (2 hours)*Paris: City of Revolution I (1789, 1830, 1848)***1789**

READINGS: Douthwaite, Sol, Seth, "A Narrative Chronology of Events in Revolutionary France" (2019) [25-29 course pack]

ART: *The Storming of the Bastille* (1789)

Jacques-Louis David, *The Tennis Court Oath* (1789)

1830

YOUTUBE VIDEO: *Les Misérables*, "Do You Hear the People Sing?", URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

ART: Eugène Delacroix, *Liberty Leading the People* (1830)

1848

READINGS: Flaubert, *Sentimental Education* (Part Three, I, "The Barricade") (1869) [265-277, course pack]

Forum Post (200 words)

Week 4: Thursday 1 February (1 hour)*Paris: City of Revolution II (2023)*

READINGS:

Josephine Goldman, "Can Black Lives Matter in a Race-Blind France? French Avoidance of 'Race' and Mobilisation of Black Collective Identity in Response to Police Brutality," *Literature and Aesthetics* 30.2 (2020): 92-111. [Weldon Journal download]

Guardian article: "There's so much anger: France braces for more rioting over police shooting" (29 June 2023)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/29/anger-france-braces-more-rioting-police-shooting>

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Guardian article: "France riots: Hundreds arrested in fourth night of unrest as 45,000 police deployed" (29 June 2023)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jun/30/france-riots-more-than-400-arrested-as-police-officer-accused-of-shooting-teen-apologises>

Guardian article: "Hundreds of Thousands of People Take to the Streets" (28 March 2023)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/28/strikes-protests-france-macron-pensions-clashes>

Week 5: Tuesday 6 February (2 hours)*Haussmann, Catacombs, and the Rebuilding of Paris (1853-1870)*

READINGS: Vanessa R. Schwartz, "Setting the Stage: The Boulevard, the Press and the Staging of Everyday Life," in *Spectacular Realities* (1998) [course pack]

Emile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise* (1883), chapter 4 [course pack]

YOUTUBE VIDEOS:

The Catacombs: URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

The Man Who Rebuilt Paris (Haussmann in under 3 minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-_mVRG2IDI

Forum Post (200 words)

Week 5: Thursday 8 February (1 hour)*Mourning the Old Paris: Baudelaire's "The Swan"*

READING: Charles Baudelaire, "The Swan" (1856) [course pack]

Forum Presentation due (10%)**Week 6: Tuesday 13 February (2 hours)****MIDTERM TEST (1.5 hours) (15% of final grade)****Week 6: Thursday 15 February (1 hour)***Sex and the City*READINGS: Adolphe Belot, *Mademoiselle Giraud, My Wife* (1870) [91-120, chap 12-15, course pack]

RECOMMENDED READING:

Katherine Gantz, "Bedrooms and boulevards: the erotics of ambiguous space in Belot's *Mademoiselle Giraud, ma femme*" (2017) [UWO Weldon Journal Download]ART: Édouard Manet, *Olympia* (1863), *Nana* (1877)Gustave Courbet, *Le sommeil* (1866)**Week 7: 19-23 February****READING WEEK: NO CLASSES****Week 8: Tuesday 27 February (2 hours)***Painting Paris: The Impressionists (1860s-1890s)*ART: Pierre-Auguste Renoir, *La Grenouillère* (1868), *The Theatre Box* (1874), *The Grands Boulevards* (1875), *Dance at the Moulin de la Galette* (1876), *Luncheon of the Boating Party* (1880-81)Claude Monet, *Impression, Sunrise* (1872), *La Grenouillère* (1869), *The Gare Saint-Lazare* (1877)Camille Pissarro, *Boulevard Montmartre in Spring* (1897), *Boulevard Montmartre at Night* (1898)Edouard Manet, *Music in the Tuileries* (1862), *A Bar at the Folies Bergères* (1882), *The Railway* (1873), *The Café Concert* (1878)Gustave Caillebotte, *Young Man At His Window* (1875), *Paris Street: Rainy Day* (1877)**Essay topic handed out (800 words, 20% of final grade)****Forum Post (200 words)****Week 8: Thursday 29 February (1 hour)***Early Twentieth-Century Paris: La Belle époque (1880s-1914)*READINGS: Colette, *Claudine in Paris* (1901) [course pack]ART: Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, *At the Moulin Rouge* (1892), *At the Moulin Rouge: Two Women Dancing* (1892), *The Medical Inspection (at the Rue des Moulins brothel)* (1894)

YOUTUBE VIDEO: A Trip Through Paris, 1890s-1900 (Belle Époque)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjDclfAFRB4>

Week 9: Tuesday 5 March (2 hours)*Twentieth-Century Paris: Existentialism and the Interwar Period*

READINGS:

Sarah Bakewell, "Sir, What a Horror, Existentialism!" [course pack]

Sartre, *Existentialism is a Humanism* [course pack]Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* [course pack]**Forum Post (200 words)****Week 9: Thursday 7 March (1 hour)***Paris and Song*

Guest speaker: Dr. Jacques Lamarche, Paris and Song

Week 10: Tuesday 12 March (2 hours)*Paris, je t'aime*FILM: *Paris, je t'aime* (2006)**Week 10: Thursday 14 March (1 hour)***Paris and Fashion*

Guest speaker: Dr. Kelly Olson, Paris and Fashion

Week 11: Tuesday 19 March (2 hours)*Global Paris II: Black Americans in Paris*

READINGS:

Patrice Higonnet, "The American Imagination" [course pack]

James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room* [course pack]Gabrielle Belot, "James Baldwin in Paris" (2019), URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site**Forum Post (200 words)****Week 11: Thursday 21 March (1 hour)***Paris and Urban Terrorism: Charlie Hebdo and Bataclan*

READINGS:

Melanie Conroy, "Teaching Republican Culture Through Caricature: The Scandal of *Charlie Hebdo*" (2019) [97-107 course pack]Angelique Chrisafis, "It looked like a battlefield: the full story of what happened in the Bataclan" (*Guardian* 20 November 2015), URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

RECOMMENDED READING:

Guardian article: "Women are already excluded from French political life: that's the real issue in the school abayas row" (5 September 2023)<https://www.theguardian.com/world/commentisfree/2023/sep/05/muslims-excluded-french-political-school-abaya-france>

Week 12: Tuesday 26 March (2 hours)*Paris and the Banlieues*

FILM: *Les Misérables*, director Ladj Ly (2019)

READING: Karolina Westling, (2023) "Intergenerational injustice in a Parisian banlieue.

Ladj Ly's contemporary reframing of *Les Misérables*," *French Screen Studies*, 23:1 (2023): 20-35 [download from Weldon journals]

Essay Due (20%)

Week 12: Thursday 28 March (1 hour)*Paris in the Millenium I: Green Paris and Notre-Dame***Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris**

READINGS:

Lindsey Tramuta, "How Mayor Anne Hidalgo Plans to Reinvent Paris": URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

Hidalgo fined for hiring too many women:

- <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/16/europe/women-paris-fine-intl-scli/index.html>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55330297>

The Fire at Notre-Dame

READING: Lindsey Tramuta, "What Notre-Dame Means to Parisians--and To All of Us"

URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

Week 13: Tuesday 2 April (2 hours)*Reclaiming the Paris Banlieues: Hip-Hop and Rap*

READINGS:

Séverine Rebourcet, "*Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité, and Laïcité: Frenchness, Islam, and French Hip-Hop*" (2019) [50-66 course pack]

Guardian article: Iman Amrani, "PNL: Deux Frères review: France's rap kings scale brooding new heights" (5 April 2019), URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/commentisfree/2023/sep/05/muslims-excluded-french-political-school-abaya-france>

French rap band, PNL (Peace N'Lovés), 2 brothers Adema and N.O.S. (*Dans la légende* 2016, sold 1 million copies)

YOUTUBE: PNL, "Au DD" (2019), URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

Week 13: Thursday 4 April (1 hour)*Paris in the Millenium II*

READING: Adam Gopnik, "One Last Ride" [course pack]

"The Streets of Paris Under Quarantine" (*New Yorker*, March and April 2020), URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

"Paris Re-opens," URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

Mira Kamdar, "Paris Is About to Change" (*The Atlantic*, Sept. 2020), URL available on *Unlocking Paris* OWL site

TERM ENDS MONDAY 8 APRIL 2024

April 2024 Final Examination (2 hours) (30% of final grade)