

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES  
**FR1001B Unlocking Paris**  
**Winter 2025**

**Instructor:** Chris Roulston

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

**Room:** AHB 2B04

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**Office Hour:** By appointment 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.

**Prerequisites:** There are no prerequisites for FR1001B

**Course Materials**

All course materials will be available free of charge on OWL BRIGHTSPACE under 'Course Readings'

**OWL Brightspace**

Students are responsible for checking the course site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Students may access the OWL Brightspace Learner Support site for assistance: <https://brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/> For IT related issues, they may contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk directly: <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/>.

**Assignments:**

Presence	10%
In-class Test (1.5 hours)	20%
In-class Written Assignment (50 mins) (300 words)	10%
In-class Essay (600 words)	20%
Final examination (2 hours)	40%
Total	100%

**Dates for Assignments**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage value</b>	<b>Date Assigned</b>
In-class Short Assignment (50 mins, 350 words)	10%	Thursday 30 January
In-class Midterm Test (1.5 hours)	20%	Tuesday 11 February
In-class Long Assignment (1.5 hours, 700 words)	20%	Tuesday 25 March
Presence	10%	Ongoing
Final Examination (2 hours)	40%	April 2025

**Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

*In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.*

**Unlocking Paris at a glance:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Week 1:</b> Tues 7 January (2 hours) Thurs 9 January (1 hour)	<b>Week 1:</b> Introduction: What is a City? Walking in Paris
<b>Week 2:</b> Tues 14 January (2 hours) Thurs 16 January (1 hour)	<b>Week 2:</b> Historical Beginnings: Medieval to 17 <sup>th</sup> Cent. Roland Barthes: The Eiffel Tower
<b>Week 3:</b> Tues 21 January (2 hours) Thurs 23 January (1 hour)	<b>Week 3:</b> Enlightenment Paris (18 <sup>th</sup> Cent.) Enlightenment Café and Salon Culture
<b>Week 4:</b> Tues 28 January (2 hours) Thurs 30 January (1 hour)	<b>Week 4:</b> Paris: City of Revolution (1789, 1830) <b>IN-CLASS SHORT ASSIGNMENT (350 words)</b>
<b>Week 5:</b> Tues 4 February (2 hours) Thurs 6 February (1 hour)	<b>Week 5:</b> Haussmann and Rebuilding of Paris (19 <sup>th</sup> Cent.) Baudelaire, “The Swan”
<b>Week 6:</b> Tues 11 February (1.5 hours) Thurs 13 February (1 hour)	<b>Week 6:</b> <b>MIDTERM TEST</b> Sex and the City
<b>Week 7:</b> 17-21 February	<b>Week 7:</b> <b>READING WEEK (NO CLASSES)</b>
<b>Week 8:</b> Tues 25 February (2 hours)  Thurs 27 February (1 hour)	<b>Week 8:</b> Paris and the Impressionists (1860s-90s) Paris and la Belle époque (1880s-1914)
<b>Week 9 :</b> Tuesday 4 March (2 hours) Thurs 6 March (1 hour)	<b>Week 9:</b> Paris, Existentialism and Interwar Period Guest Speaker: Paris and Fashion
<b>Week 10:</b> Tues 11 March (2 hours) Thurs 13 March (1 hour)	<b>Week 10:</b> Black Americans in Paris Guest Speaker: Paris and Song
<b>Week 11:</b> Tues 18 March (2 hours) Thurs 20 March (1 hour)	<b>Week 11:</b> Paris and Urban Terrorism Paris’s <i>Banlieues</i> , Hip Hop and Rap
<b>Week 12:</b> Tues 25 March (2 hours) Thurs 27 March (1 hour)	<b>Week 12:</b> <b>IN-CLASS LONG ASSIGNMENT (700 words)</b>
<b>Week 13:</b> Tues 1 April & Thurs 3 April	<b>Week 13:</b> <b>CLASSES CANCELLED</b>

**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

**Course Policies**

**Participation and Attendance:** Students are expected to attend both weekly lectures. Should a student need to miss class, a courtesy explanatory email is appreciated.

**NOTE:** If a student misses 2 weeks of classes (4 classes altogether, either a 1-hour or a 2-hour class) 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.

**Assignment Submission:** The essay assignment must be submitted via Turnitin on the BRIGHTSPACE platform.

**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.

**General information about missed coursework:**

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult: [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/>

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- Examinations scheduled during official examination period
- Midterm Test

### **Absences at Final Examinations**

Special Examination is any examination other than the regular or Supplemental Examinations, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents.

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/definitions.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/definitions.pdf)

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/definitions.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/definitions.pdf)

### **Academic Offenses**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, here:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/scholasticdisciplineundergrad.pdf>

**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.

### **Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software**

All required papers are 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 for such checking 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 of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

## **Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays**

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) . Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

## **Academic Accommodation and Accessible Education**

**Academic Accommodation** is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students”

<http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html>

## **Special Examinations**

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

## **Support Services**

### **Academic Advising**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

## **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

## **USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

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.

## **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 (Winter 2025)**  
**All readings are on BRIGHTSPACE under the 'Course Readings' tab**

**Week 1: Tuesday 7 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 9 January (1 hour)**

*Walking in the City and Mapping Out Paris*

**READINGS:**

**Essay:** Michel de Certeau, "Walking in the City" in *The Cultural Studies Reader* (1993) (3 pages)

**Essay:** Lauren Elkin, *Flâneuse: Women Walk the City in Paris, New York, Tokyo, Venice, and London* (2016) (21 pages)

**Week 2: Tuesday 14 January (2 hours)**

*Historical Beginnings: From Medieval Times to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century*

**READINGS:**

**Essay:** Joan DeJean, "The Bridge Where Paris Became Modern" from *How Paris Became Paris* (2014) (23 pages)

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

**Week 2: Thursday 16 January (1 hour)**

*Paris: City of Myths and the Eiffel Tower*

**READING:**

**Essay:** Roland Barthes, "The Eiffel Tower and Other Mythologies" (1979) (15 pages)

**Week 3: Tuesday 21 January (2 hours)**

*Paris and the Enlightenment I: Discovering the Other*

*Enlightenment Paris and Cultural Relativism*

**READINGS:**

**Novel extract:** Montesquieu, *Persian Letters: Letters 28, 30, 36, 98* (1721) (7 pages)

**Novel extract:** Mme de Graffigny, *Lettres d'une Péruvienne: Letters XX, XXVIII, XXXIV* (1747) (12 pages)

**Week 3: Thursday 23 January (1 hour)**

*Paris and the Enlightenment II: Café and Salon Culture*

**READINGS:**

**Essay:** Dena Goodman, "The Enlightenment Salonnière," from *The Republic of Letters: A Cultural History of the French Enlightenment* (1994) (16 pages)

**Recommended Reading:**

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

URL available on *Unlocking Paris* BRIGHTSPACE site

**Week 4: Tuesday 28 January (2 hours)***Paris: City of Revolution (1789, 1830, 1848)***1789****READING:****Essay:** Douthwaite, Sol, Seth, "A Narrative Chronology of Events in Revolutionary France" (2019)*(4 pages)***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* BRIGHTSPACE site**ART:** Eugène Delacroix, *Liberty Leading the People* (1830)**1848****Week 4: Thursday 30 January (1 hour)****IN-CLASS SHORT ASSIGNMENT (350 words) (10%)****Week 5: Tuesday 4 February (2 hours)***Haussmann, Catacombs, and the Rebuilding of Paris (1853-1870)***READINGS:****Essay:** Vanessa R. Schwartz, "Setting the Stage: The Boulevard, the Press and the Staging of Everyday Life," in *Spectacular Realities* (1998) *(13 pages)***Novel extract:** Emile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise* (1883), chapter 4 *(33 pages)***YOUTUBE VIDEOS:**The Catacombs: URL available on *Unlocking Paris* BRIGHTSPACE site

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-\\_mVRG2IDI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-_mVRG2IDI)**Week 5: Thursday 6 February (1 hour)***Mourning the Old Paris: Baudelaire's "The Swan"***READING:****Poem:** Charles Baudelaire, "The Swan" (1856)**Week 6: Tuesday 11 February (2 hours)****MIDTERM TEST (1.5 hours) (20%)****Week 6: Thursday 13 February (1 hour)***Sex and the City***READING:****Novel extract:** Adolphe Belot, *Mademoiselle Giraud, My Wife* (1870) *(31 pages)**Recommended Reading:***Essay:** Katherine Gantz, "Bedrooms and boulevards: the erotics of ambiguous space in Belot's *Mademoiselle Giraud, ma femme*" (2017) *(15 pages)***ART:** Édouard Manet, *Olympia* (1863), *Nana* (1877)Gustave Courbet, *Le sommeil* (1866)

**Week 7: 17-21 February****READING WEEK: NO CLASSES****Week 8: Tuesday 25 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)

**Week 8: Thursday 27 February (1 hour)***Early Twentieth-Century Paris: La Belle époque (1880s-1914)***READING:**

**Novel extract:** Colette, *Claudine in Paris* (1901) (8 pages)

**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 4 March (2 hours)***Twentieth-Century Paris: Existentialism and the Interwar Period***READING:**

**Essay:** Sarah Bakewell, "Sir, What a Horror, Existentialism!" (34 pages)

Recommended Reading:

**Essay:** Jean-Paul Sartre, *Existentialism is a Humanism* (1946)

**Week 9: Thursday 6 March (1 hour)***Paris and Fashion*

Guest speaker: Dr. Kelly Olson, *Paris and Fashion*

**Week 10: Tuesday 11 March (2 hours)***Global Paris II: Black Americans in Paris***READINGS:**

**Novel extract:** James Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room* (32 pages)

Essay: Gabrielle Belot, "James Baldwin in Paris" (2019), URL available on *Unlocking Paris*

**Recommended Reading:**

Patrice Higonnet, "The American Imagination"

**Week 10: Thursday 13 March (1 hour)***Paris and Song*

Guest speaker: Dr. Jacques Lamarche, *Paris and Song*

**Week 11: Tuesday 18 March (2 hours)***Paris and Urban Terrorism: Charlie Hebdo, Bataclan***READINGS:**

**Essay:** Melanie Conroy, "Teaching Republican Culture Through Caricature: The Scandal of *Charlie Hebdo*" (2019) (10 pages)

**Article:** 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* BRIGHTSPACE 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 11: Thursday 20 March (1 hour)***Reclaiming the Paris Banlieues: Hip-Hop and Rap***READINGS:**

**Essay:** Séverine Rebourcet, "*Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité, and Laïcité: Frenchness, Islam, and French Hip-Hop*" (2019) (16 pages)

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

**Week 12: Tuesday 25 March (2 hours)****IN-CLASS LONG ASSIGNMENT (700 words)****Week 12: Thursday 27 March (1 hour)****EXAM REVIEW****Week 13: Tuesday 1 April (2 hours)****CLASS CANCELLED****Week 13: Thursday 3 April (1 hour)****CLASS CANCELLED****TERM ENDS FRIDAY 4 APRIL 2025****Final Examination (2 hours) (40% of final grade)**