COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN PARIS

"Mapping hidden Paris through urban diversity
Promenades secrètes à travers la diversité parisienne"

Intermediate French - Culture and Conversation
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Summer 2017
Wednesday June 7 – Wednesday July 26, 2017

*Can be taken alongside with Intermediate French Grammar and Composition I or II

Instructors: Karen Santos Da Silva (Week 1 to 4) and Pierrette Sansone-Barès (Week 5 to 8)
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Office Hours: by appointment
Prerequisite: Completion of Elementary French II or the equivalent (High novice of the ACTFL)
Total number of hours: 42 (including excursions and exams)
Number of credits: 3

SCHEDULE
Monday: 1:00PM-3:00PM
Wednesday: 1:00PM-3:00PM
Excursions: 4 excursions of 2h each and 1 trip to visit Vaux-Le-Vicomte Château outside of Paris

Friday July 14 Bastille Day – No class

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This 8-week summer course is designed for non-native speakers who have completed a minimum of one year (two semesters) of French at the beginner’s level. The objective of this class is to provide a pedagogical structure for students to take full advantage of their immersion experience in Paris. The course will be comprised of a mix of classroom and excursion time, with 30 hours of in-class activities especially dedicated to hone students’ aural and oral skills, and 12 hours of targeted, small-group explorations in the city. The theme of this summer’s class is “Mapping hidden Paris through urban diversity” (“Promenades secrètes à travers la diversité parisienne”). During these eight weeks, we will focus on the hidden, quirky, unusual sides of Paris, structured around different and varied groups of people who have inhabited Paris and left their mark: artists, immigrants, workers, students, aristocrats, laborers, etc. The excursions will take the students to out of the ordinary places hidden within Paris: village streets, mansions, contemporary ephemeral street art, underground urban networks, flea markets, and so on. Students will spend time in the classroom and at home preparing for their excursions by studying documentaries, short movies, songs, poems, pamphlets, drawings, and paintings. Students will work towards a final presentation at the end of the eight weeks, “Mon Paris,” centered on the relationship between identity and Paris as an urban text.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Cultural
• Build an awareness and understanding of French and Francophone culture
• Develop a solid knowledge of Parisian culture whether contemporary or past

Orientation
• Learn to navigate in a French-speaking environment with ease
• Learn to navigate in the Paris subway, bus and public transport systems

Speaking
• Conduct a 10-minute oral presentation intelligibly and with a coherent personal argument.
• Participate in discussions and debates using coherent discourse.
• Read a text out loud with correct intonation and pronunciation.
• Tell a story or narrate an event.
• Describe a work of art.
• Express personal feelings and opinions.

Listening
• Understand and be able to summarize extended oral presentations and texts in class (10 minute speeches, press reviews, audio and video excerpts).

REQUIRED TEXTS
All readings and documents will be supplied to you via the course brochure and available electronically.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS
Attendance to this class and to group excursions is essential and mandatory. In-class work is based on active participation, individually and collectively. During the excursions, movie screenings and workshops there will be active discussions in French and students are expected to participate. Students may only be absent once. Any consecutive absence will impact the final grade. The course instructor will be with students throughout the course, including during most excursions. Students are expected to only speak French during the course and the excursions (language pledge signed at the beginning of the program).

ASSIGNMENTS
Weekly homework assignments will amount to approximately 10.5 hours, although the amount of time necessary to cover the material in a foreign language highly depends on each student’s pace. These assignments will include readings of newspapers and articles, screenings of films and archival video, and listening to radio broadcasts and interviews. Students will also be responsible for weekly in-class speaking assignments.

For the final project (“Mon Paris”), students will choose a section of Paris and combine personal experiences with research to give a 5 to 8 minute oral presentation followed by questions, in French.

Readings
Assignments will include:
- documents such as newspapers and book excerpts of the place explored
- vocabulary list preparation
- research toward the final project
- Questionnaires to complete during excursions

EXCURSIONS
The excursions in this course are mandatory and included in the course’s 42 credit hours. Four shorter excursions (usually every other Friday) will take students around various parts of Paris in conjunction with the themes explored in class. One longer excursion will be to visit a chateau outside of Paris. These excursions are considered part of the class, and students must speak French during these hours.
TESTS AND EXAMS
There will be a mid semester exam and a final project for this class. Participation will be graded on an ongoing process.

GRADING
Participation in class/ participation during excursions / progression: 35 %
Mid semester exam: 30 %
Final personal project: 35 %

Grading scale:

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
https://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/integrity-statement
http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/dishonesty-plagiarism

Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment with the program director as soon as possible. Students who need test or classroom accommodations must be registered in advance with the Office of Disability Services.
COURSE SCHEDULE

I. Communities

Our first discovery of Paris will bring us to two neighborhoods: le Marais and le Sentier. Both were home
and workplace to the Sephardic Jewish community that came after both Central-European Ashkenazi
Jews and Armenians. The Marais is now home to a vibrant gay community which shares characteristics
with New York’s Village. Both le Marais and le Sentier are at the center of the clothing industry and of
Parisian fashion. Areas that will be visited and discussed will include:

- Le Marais
- Le Sentier
- La bourse du travail et la place du Caire
- Les cohabitations du passage Ste Foy
- Du Boulevard de Sébastopol à la rue Réaumur

Week 1: « L’esprit du marais »
Discussion of the sociology of the center of Paris, the evolution of its demographics and of the
economic activities in the neighborhood.
Vocabulaire : la ville, les groupes sociaux, la géographie parisienne

Week 2: « la communauté juive »
Defining one of the oldest communities of the capital, looking particularly at its synagogues, its
schools, and its integration into Parisian life.
Vocabulaire : l’architecture, les religions, l’éducation, les métiers

Friday June 16: excursion # 1 « Le Marais »

II. Immigration and diversity

Belleville is a neighborhood that today is home to the most diversified group of people in Paris, both in
terms of national/ethnic origins, and in terms of income. We will delve into one of the few remaining
working-class neighborhoods of the capital, visit its rich and omnipresent graffiti culture, see its
commercial activities, and feel its intellectual energy. Areas that will be discussed and visited will include:

- La rue Oberkampf, un fief de la "bourgeoisie bohème"
- Rue des cascades
- Le parc de Belleville
- La rue Denoyez
- Musée Edith Piaf – maison des métallos
- Passages et cités de Ménilmontant - cité Leroy, cité de l’Ermitage

Week 3: Belleville et la diversité
Vocabulaire : les quartiers, les moyens de transport, les étrangers à Paris

Friday June 23: excursion # 2 « Belleville »

Week 4: Belleville et l’art
We will walk through the small steep streets of Belleville between Edith Piaf’s house, the Père
Lachaise cemetery, and the panoramic overlook at the top of Belleville park, without forgetting to
walk through the Denoyez street, famous for its “authorized” graffiti.
Vocabulaire : les commerces, l’immigration, l’art des rues
Week 4: Midterm and Theater Workshop

**Wednesday, June 28: Midterm**

**Thursday and Friday, June 29 and 30: Theater Workshop**

The body in space: the goal of the theatre workshop is to help create a kinetic connection between the language, the voice and the body. It also helps students play out daily situations they might encounter during their time abroad, making the body as much of a tool of communication as the French language proper.

III. **The Bastille and the gentrification of the Faubourg Saint-Antoine**

Our visit of the Bastille will take us through small dead-end streets and private courtyards, and then to the Bastille Opera, passing through Lappe street, night-life hotspot, and the Damoye courtyard. Once called “Faubourg Saint-Antoine,” this neighborhood is full of history, as it was at the center of Revolutionary Paris. We will still find a few artisanal studios, even if most have left the neighborhood to be replaced by artists, designers, or communication advisors!

- L’Opéra Bastille
- La gentrification du passage du cheval blanc
- Une rue banalisée, des cours préservées
- La rue de Lappe : vie nocturne
- La cour Damoye

Week 5: « L’embourgeoisement »

Discussion of sociological and economic gentrification in Paris.

**Vocabulaire**: Les idées, les opinions, la société, la vie intellectuelle

**Friday July 7: excursion #3 « la Bastille »**

IV. **Architectural transformations, or « Paris rises in the east »**

We will visit a Parisian neighborhood that considerably changed in the 80s, whose atmosphere is unique: the Villette neighborhood. It is the last neighborhood that has seen the creation of a cultural open space for the people, the Villette park, the largest urban park in Europe. It brings together a diversified population and infrastructures aimed at leisure, culture, and education. On the outskirts and previously under the fumes of factories, the Villette basin today is home to new spaces aimed at future generations, as well as the incredible Philharmonic building, designed by Jean Nouvel.

- Promenades fluviales
- Le bassin et le parc de la Villette
- La cité de la musique – Le philharmonie
- La bibliothèque François Mitterrand
- Le 104

Week 6: The creation of popular urban spaces

Discussion of urban construction, and of the traces left by various presidents and cultural policies.

**Vocabulaire**: Les espaces urbains, les parcs, l’architecture contemporaine, la culture
Friday July 13: excursion # 4 « la Villette – le 104 »

Week 7: « Places of Power »
Through our study of Paris’ development, we will identify places where decisions were being made, and where they are themselves situated in the Parisian landscape. We will consider the street as a space for demonstration, work, and leisure. The leaders, the people, and the bourgeoisie: we will find their traces through successive regimes. Paris has historically centralized all France’s power, its suburbs have taken on all the duties... and what about Province?

Vocabulaire : L’histoire, l’Etat et le gouvernement, les jeunes, les symboles du pouvoir

Saturday July 22: Field trip to « Vaux le Vicomte castle »

Eighth week: « Mon Paris »
Oral presentations (final exam)