Mosaic Paris:
Community and diversity in a “global city”
(19th-21st c.)

Professor: Christelle Taraud
Mail: christelle.taraud@wanadoo.fr

Class location TBA
June 7th-July 27th (Contact hours: 42)
Meeting times: Tuesday 10h00-13h00 & Thursday 10h00-13h00
Office hours: by appointment

Description
This course is an introduction to the history, the sociology, and the anthropology of various communities in Paris. Focusing on different communities will lead us to reconsider the history of Paris, of France, of Europe, and of the colonial and post-colonial world, and will help explain the presence of the many immigrants (and of their children who have become French citizens) who have come from other parts of Europe, but also from the Caribbean, the Maghreb, sub-Saharan Africa, as well as from Asia. Through this lens, we will link the past to the present and gain perspective on contemporary debates—including multiculturalism, immigration (regulated and clandestine), the question of secularism, the place of Islam, etc.—facing French society that arise precisely because of Paris’ status as a “global city.”

The course will first consider the settlement of immigrant European, Caribbean, African and Asian (Belgian, Italian, Spaniard, Polish, Portuguese, Caribbean, Algerian, Senegalese, Vietnamese) or migrant (French of North African descent before 1962, for example) communities in the singular space constituted by Paris.

Secondly, we will problematize (by linking the question to this long history of immigration to Paris) the idea that a certain type of ethnic and/or confessional sectarianism (which the course will attempt to define) is in the process of taking hold in France—and in its capital—at the expense of a rich diversity that has, for a long time, made Paris a large cosmopolitan and multicultural city.

Excursions
All excursions are mandatory and will be accompanied by the professor. Students are expected to be on-time and to actively participate as these excursions are an integral part of the course.
Assignments

In addition to regular attendance, students must assiduously prepare the readings for each course to be able to participate actively in the discussion. Each student should take notes on the reading and write summaries of the arguments s/he intends to present to the class. Additionally, students will have to write one midterm and one final paper.

Grading will be based on the following conditions:

- On-going preparation and oral participation in class and during the excursions: 15%
- One midterm paper (5-6 pages in French): 25%
- A 30-40 min oral exposé (notes ok, reading word-for-word not allowed): 25%
- A final paper (10-15 pages in French): 40%

Homework must be printed and handed-in on the day it is due. All work is due on the date indicated at the beginning of class. Work may be handed in one class late, but will automatically be dropped by two grades (an A becomes a B+). Work handed in later will not be accepted and the student will receive a 0 for the assignment.

Absences and tardiness

- Each student is entitled to miss one class (justified or unjustified)
- Your final grade will be reduced by a 1/3 (an A becomes an A-) for each subsequent absence
- Three late arrivals equal 1 non-excused absence. To avoid any problems, each student will sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of class. Students who arrive after the signature of this sheet will be considered tardy.

Class rules

- No eating
- No cell phones
- No laptops or other electronic devices
- Leaving the room once class has begun is considered very impolite in France

Columbia University Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity

The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity.

Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars’ work,
the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.

In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others’ ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

Any breach of this intellectual responsibility is a breach of faith with the rest of our academic community. It undermines our shared intellectual culture, and it cannot be tolerated. Students failing to meet these responsibilities should anticipate being asked to leave Columbia.

For more information on academic integrity at Columbia, students may refer to the Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity: http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity

Statement on Disability Accommodations

If you have been certified by Disability Services (DS) to receive accommodations, please either bring your accommodation letter from DS to your professor to confirm your accommodation needs, or ask the program Director to consult with your professor. If you believe that you may have a disability that requires accommodation, please contact the program Director.

Important: To request and receive an accommodation you must be certified by DS.

Bibliography

Required readings:

The coursepack given to the student at the beginning of the semester. This coursepack, prepared by the professor, is composed of excerpts of texts that correspond to each class theme along with excerpts from Christelle Taraud, La colonisation, Paris, Le Cavalier Bleu, 2008; and Michel Pinçot et Monique Pinçot-Charlot, Paris : Quinze promenades sociologiques, Paris, Payot, collection « Grand format », 2009.
Program

Week 1

Session I : Paris, a mosaic population

Introduction to the class: explanation of rules, class structure, exposé sign-up and discussion regarding expectations for the final paper
Paris : a mosaic population in a national community with universal aspirations ?

Readings : Ernest Renan, Qu’est-ce qu’une nation, Paris, Mille et Une Nuits, 1997.

Session II : The National Museum of the History of Immigration: An institution in the service of the history of diverse communities?

Visit to the permanent collection of the National Museum of the History of Immigration


Week 2

Session I : Strangers and immigrants in contemporary Paris


Session II : Arriving as a stranger, becoming French, and melting (or not) into Paris ?

Walk around la rue des Rosiers : A plunge into the Jewish community. Visit to the Memorial of the Shoah


Midterm Paper due.

Week 3

Session I: Europeans in Paris from the 19th to the 20th century: The Polish example


Session II: The Orient and Orientalism in Paris: yesterday, today, and tomorrow?


Week 4

Session I: Egyptian Paris: a concrete example of Orientalism in Paris

From the Obélisque at Place de la Concorde to little Egypt: A walk in Egyptian Paris.


Session II: The Louvre and Egypt, a long history

Visit of the department of Egyptology at the Louvre
Week 5

Session I: Islam in France from the 1920s to today through the example of the Grand Mosque of Paris


No readings.

Session II: Black Paris (1920-1960)


Week 6

Session I: The Algerian War in Paris through the lens of October 17, 1961


Session II: From colonial migration to post-colonial immigration in Paris: the "African" quarters/neighborhoods?

Strasbourg Saint Denis, la Goutte d’Or, Château Rouge: walk in African Paris of yesterday and of today and visit of the Institute of Islamic Cultures.

**Week 7**

**Session I : Recent immigration and a singular neighborhood: Little Asia of Paris**
*Walk in Little Asia*


**Session II : Asian arts in Contemporary Paris**

*Visit of the Asian collection at the Quai Branly Museum*
*No readings.*

**Final paper due.**