

Freshman Seminar Proposal

A History of Modern Paris: The "City of Light" From the Revolution of 1789 to the Riots of 2005

Prof. Jennifer Willging
2 credits, Letter
Spring 2007
R 1:30-3

Description:

In this seminar, we will explore the social and cultural history of the city of Paris from the Revolution to the present. Each week we will focus on a different event or discreet period of time, examining various cultural "products" of that event or period, including short stories, songs, newspaper articles, paintings, photographs, buildings, and monuments. We will pay special attention to the city's geography--both the natural and human-made aspects of its physical structure--and the evolution of that geography over the last two-hundred years. We will reflect both on how this geography has shaped Parisian society and how Parisian society has in turn shaped and transformed this geography to suit its evolving needs and desires.

Objectives:

In this seminar, students will gain not only knowledge of the landscape and the rich history of a particular city, they will also be introduced to key moments in the cultural and social history of the Western World in general over the last two centuries. Students will also gain practice at analyzing cultural "artifacts" (literary works, objects of art, buildings, etc.) in order to derive from them knowledge about the temporally, socially, and geographically situated cultures that produced these artifacts. It is furthermore my hope that this freshman seminar will encourage the students who take it to pursue the study of history in general, the study of a foreign language, and finally, study abroad.

Format:

Class format will be short lectures (supplemented by various media, such as maps, paintings, and photographs presented via the Internet or Power Point; film clips; and music) and discussion.

Evaluation:

Attendance and participation in class discussions (grade out of 10 points for each meeting):	40%
Brief quizzes on reading and discussion material (3): 30%	
Short research paper on topic of student's choice (4-5 pages):	30%

Texts to purchase:

"Streetwise Paris" (a map)
Colin Jones, *Paris: Biography of a City*
Jean-Paul Sartre, *No Exit*
Course packet

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity. As defined by University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is the Representation of another's works or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. Plagiarism is one of the most serious offenses that can be committed in an academic community; as such, it is the obligation of this department and its instructors to report all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. After the report is filed, a hearing takes place and if the student is found guilty, the possible punishment ranges from failing the class to suspension or expulsion from the university. Although the existence of the internet makes it relatively easy to plagiarize, it also makes it even easier for instructors to find evidence of plagiarism. It is obvious to most teachers when a student turns in work that is not his or her own and plagiarism search engines make documenting the offense very simple.

-Always cite your sources (your TA and/or professor can help with this).

-Always ask questions before you turn in an assignment if you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism.

-Always see your TA or professor if you are having difficulty with an assignment.

To preserve the integrity of OSU as an institution of higher learning, to maintain your own integrity, and to avoid jeopardizing your future, DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!

Disability Services:

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office for Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at (614) 292-3307 or (614) 292-0901 (TDD). Students should also contact me as soon as possible to explore potential accommodations.

Please do not hesitate to speak to me in class or during my office hours, or to e-mail me, if you have any questions or if you simply want to discuss your work. I will be more than happy to talk with you.

Brief bio of the professor:

Jennifer Willging is an Assistant Professor in the department of French and Italian. She specializes in twentieth- and twenty-first-century French literature and culture. She has published articles of literary criticism on various French writers, such as Louis-Ferdinand Céline, Jean-Paul Sartre, Marguerite Duras, and Annie Ernaux. She has recently completed a book manuscript on the representation of anxiety in contemporary women's writing in French. A current research project is the history of French and American cultural relations, on which topic she regularly teaches another course in English, French 153, which fulfills a GEC Cultures and Ideas requirement. She also teaches a variety of courses in French, from 201, Introduction to Literary and Cultural Analysis, to 800-level graduate seminars on contemporary issues in French literature and culture.

Arts and Sciences 137: A History of Modern Paris
Prof. Jennifer Willging

WEEK	TOPIC	RREPARATION FOR CLASS
1	Introduction: Geography of a city	
2	Terrorized Paris: Robespierre and the Convention, 1792-95	Colin Jones, <i>Paris: Biography of a City</i> , 173-222
3	Napoleonic Paris: Center of a Bloody Empire, 1799-1815	<i>Paris: Biography of a City</i> , 222-62
4	Balzac's Paris: Bourgeois Revolutions, 1830-40s	<i>Paris: Biography of a City</i> 263-80 and Balzac, "The Colonel Chabert" (course packet). Quiz 1
5	Haussmann's Paris: Architectural Revolution, 1850s-60s	<i>Paris: Biography of a City</i> , 280-343 (course packet)
6	Jazz Age Paris: African-Americans in Montmartre, 1917-30	<i>Paris: Biography of a City</i> , 385-95 and Tyler Stovall, <i>Paris Noir</i> , 25-81 (course packet)
7	Occupied Paris: Living Under German Rule, 1940-44	<i>Paris: Biography of a City</i> , 395-425 and Marguerite Duras, "Monsieur X., Called Here Pierre Rabier" (course packet) Quiz 2
8	Existential Paris: St-Germain-des-Prés, 1940s to '50s	Jean-Paul Sartre, <i>No Exit</i>
9	Studios Paris: The Latin Quarter and the Student Riots of 1968	<i>Paris: Biography of a City</i> , 426-63 (course packet)
10	Angry Paris: The Suburban Riots of 2005	Various newspaper articles (course packet). Quiz 3

Research paper due during finals week.