

Prof. Christina von Koehler
University of California, Paris
Summer Program, 2010

Tuesday 14h00-16h
Thursday 14h00-16h

CULTURE COURSE: SOCIAL SCIENCE EMPHASIS PARIS PAST AND PRESENT

In France, the past is always present. This class is designed to provide students with an understanding of the intellectual framework and historical references that inform the most volatile issues debated in France today. Thorough study of the history of Paris from political, economic, and social perspectives will equip the student to analyze and evaluate current issues and events from both the French and the American perspective.

Required texts:

Colin Jones, Paris, The Biography of a City. (Penguin paperback edition, 2006).
Course Reader: All other readings listed may be found in the xeroxed reader.

Read Jones's history as if it were a novel. Don't get bogged down in little facts and details, don't try to make an outline of every event he mentions. Use it as background and to double-check facts.

The essays in the course reader are intended as springboards for both your essays and our class discussions. Make sure to set aside time to read and think about the issues they raise.

Class requirements:

Your grade will be based on the following elements:

Analyses (3)	60%
Invalides "scavenger hunt"	10%
Class Participation	10%
Final Exam	20%

The **Analyses** are 3-4 page essays, typed and double-spaced. They are your chance to talk to me in private and should therefore be written with care. Pick a theme that helps you zero in on a topic which will allow you to combine aspects of our readings and discussions with your own observations of Paris (incl. on our group visits) during the previous two weeks. You may use those suggested in italics in the syllabus. See if you can use and make the connections between multiple sources,

They should absolutely NOT be a dry summary of "then we did this, then we saw that." Nor should you try to cover everything.

Be creative! Comparison between France and other countries is welcome. Your work will be evaluated in terms of cohesiveness, logic, and originality. There are many avenues you can choose...feel free to discuss your ideas with me before or after any class.

The essays are **due, at the latest**, on:

July 6/July 20/August 3 (but if you are inspired, please hand them in early!)

Note: proofreading of your printed essay is required. I will stay on after class on those days should you need time to look over your print-out. Catch all the typos and grammatical errors you can and just write all over the typescript! Work, no matter how incisive and original, that is filled with these kinds of mistakes is guaranteed not to receive an "A."

The **Invalides “Scavenger Hunt”** sends you out on your own (or with friends) to one of the most symbolic sites in Paris. Accent may set up a group outing for the afternoon of July 7th, or you may be going on your own. You will need to do some research or extra reading in order to complete the form, but most of all keep your eyes open! **Due July 13.**

Class Participation is required both in the classroom and on all of our group visits. In case of absence you are required to bring a doctor’s note to the office.

The **Final Exam** will be held in class on **August 5**. Prepared, but not open book. You will have been given essay topics to choose from one week in advance with the understanding that this demands preparation and thought on your part.

WEEK 1:

Wednesday June 23 – Paris as palimpsest

Skim through chapters 1-4 in Jones: be sure to have at least read his highlighted sections on “The Philip Augustus Wall,” and “The Louvre.”

The lecture is followed by a

Class outing: The Walls of the Louvre

Bring along the maps! (the first 5 pp. of the reader)

Thursday June 24 – From Henri IV to Louis XIV: Constructing power

Jones, Ch. 5, “Grand Siècle., Great Eclipse 1594-1715.”

“The Frogs who asked for a King,” from Jean de La Fontaine, Fables

Friday, June 25 – all-program excursion to CHANTILLY

WEEK 2:

Tuesday June 29 – The 18th century rejects old assumptions about religion and politics.

France and the US today : Why is it still dangerous to « dare to know? »

Jones, Ch. 6, “The Kingless Capital of the Enlightenment 1715-1789.”

Excerpts from: Immanuel Kant, What is Enlightenment ? (1784); Voltaire’s Treatise on Tolerance (1763) and his Philosophical Dictionary (1764) [sections on Tolerance, Dogma, Fanaticism, Persecution, Democracy, Equality]; Charles de Montesquieu, The Spirit of the Laws (1748); Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract (1762).

Dexter Filkins, « Defying Terror, Afghan Girls Go To Class, » The New York Times/Le Monde, January 24, 2009, p. 5; Hendrik Hertzberg, « Comment : Indulgence, » from The New Yorker, April 19, 2010, pp. 31-32.

Wednesday June 30 –

1:00 p.m. Introduction to Jiri Kylian’s ballet “Kaguyahime” (1 hour)*

Thursday July 1 – *The French revolution: by, for, or only in the name of the people? France and the U.S. today: can art be used to create community?*

Jones, Ch. 7, “Revolution and Empire 1789-1815,” up to Napoleon.

Carol Duncan, “From the Princely Gallery to the Public Art Museum: the Louvre Museum and the National Gallery, London,” from D. Boswell & J. Evans, eds.

Representing the Nation, A Reader (London: Routledge, 1999), pp. 304-326.

Carol Vogel, “Abu Dhabi Gets a Sampler of World Art,” from The New York Times, May 27, 2009, pp. C1, 7.

“A Parisian newspaper account” and statistics relating to those who attacked the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

Maximilien Robespierre: “On Revolutionary Government, 25 December 1793” and “The Administration of Terror, June 10, 1794.”

Friday, July 2 – all-program excursion to CHARTRES

WEEK 3:

*** Monday July 5:**

7:30 p.m. Ballet performance of “Kaguyahime” at the Opéra Bastille (GROUP 1)

Tuesday July 6 – *Napoleon I: The Means and Ends of Political Power*

France and the U.S. today: Can you ‘control the narrative?’

Jones, finish Ch. 7.

Selections from Napoleon’s statements, private and public;

Excerpts from Madame de Remusat, Memoirs (1802-1808) (first published in 1880).

Niccolò Machiavelli, from The Prince (1514): “The Things for Which Men, and Especially Princes, are Praised or Blamed,” “Generosity and Parsimony,” “Cruelty and Compassion; and Whether It Is Better to be Loved Than Feared, or the Reverse,” “How Princes Should Honor Their Word.”

Joseph Lelyveld, “Who Is Barack Obama?” from the New York Review of Books (NYRB), May 13, 2010, pp. 4-6.

--- *First essay due.*

Wednesday July 7 –

Les Invalides (Napoleon’s Tomb)

Scavenger Hunt on your own! Handout to complete will be distributed...

Thursday July 8 – *Peasants and Workers: Timeless, unchanging misery?*

France (and the US): Are we better off today?

Jones, Ch. 8, “Between Napoleons.”

Robert Darnton, “Peasants Tell Tales, The Meaning of Mother Goose,” from The Great Cat Massacre (NY: Basic Books, 1984/1999, pp. 9-65.)

Statistics on peasant mortality during the ancien régime.

Jules Michelet, “Cheap Calico,” excerpted from The People (1846).

Tony Judt, “Ill Fares the Land,” in the NYRB, April 29, 2010, pp. 17-19.

WEEK 4:

Tuesday July 13 – *Napoleon III: Authoritarian Populism and its weaknesses.*

France and the US today: who owns a city?

Jones, Ch. 9, “Haussmannism and the City of Modernity.”

Paul Goldberger, “Eminent Dominion, Rethinking the Legacy of Robert Moses,” from The New Yorker, Feb 2, 2007.

--- *Scavenger report due.*

Wednesday July 14 NO CLASS

Thursday July 15 – *The Third Republic: Sacre Coeur vs. Eiffel Tower.*

France and the U.S. Today: What is “national identity”?

Jones, Ch. 10, “The Anxious Spectacle, 1889-1918,” up to WWI.

Photographs from the Parisian Universal expos of 1889, 1900, and 1937.

Michael Kimmelman, “Pardon My French: The Globalization of a Language,” from The New York Times, April 25, 2010, 2pp; and an excerpt from Adam Gopnik, “The Return of the Native,” The New Yorker, September 7, 2009, p. 31; Ginger Thompson, “Balancing the Needs of Education vs. Assimilation,” NYTimes/Le Monde, March 28, 2009, p. 7.

***7:30 p.m. Ballet performance of “Kaguyahime” at the Opéra Bastille (GROUP 2)**

Friday, July 16 – **all-program excursion to VERSAILLES**

Note: we will all visit the interior of the Chateau with their guides at 2:15. After that, we will visit Louis XIV’s gardens together (theme: myths and power).

WEEK 5:

Tuesday July 20 – *World War I and its aftermath*

Today: Is war about national honor or personal horror?

Reading: Jones, Chapter 10, cont. and Ch. 11, “Faded Dreams, Lost Illusions 1918-1945,” up to WWII.

Roland Doregelès, “That Fabulous Day ;” Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front (1929) ; Obituary of Lazare Ponticelli, age 110, IHT, March 13, 2008.

Philip Gourevitch, « Comment: Interrogating Torture, » from The New Yorker, May 11, 2009, pp. 33-34.

--- *Second essay due.*

Wednesday July 21 –

2:00 p.m. Class outing: The “Palais Garnier” (Opéra)

Meeting point: on the front steps of the building. Nearest metros: Opéra (#3, 7. 8) or Chaussée d’Antin-Lafayette (#9)

Thursday July 22 – WWII: The Choices you make.

Today: My country right or wrong?

Reading: Jones, finish Ch. 11.

Tony Judt, “The Problem of Evil,” in NYRB, Feb. 14, 2008.

Jean-Paul Sartre, « The Responsibility of the Individual, » from Existentialism (1956) ;

Excerpt from Albert Camus, The Rebel (1956).

Letter to The New Yorker from William Ayers regarding terrorism, May 17, 2010, p.8.

WEEK 6:

Tuesday July 27 – Why does Democracy = Anarchy?

Today: Is an active government “socialist” by definition?

Reading: Jones, Ch 12, “The Remaking of Paris 1945-1995,” up to Mitterand.

Excerpts from: Pierre-Joseph Prudhon, What is Property? (1840).

Mark Lilla, “The Tea Party Jacobins,” NYRB, May 17, 2010, pp. 53-56.

Atul Gawande, “Comment: Now What?” from The New Yorker, April 5, 2010, pp. 21-22.

Wednesday July 28 – Film screening: TBA

Thursday July 29 – Is change good?

Reading: Jones, Ch 12. continued, and “Conclusion.”

Herbert Muschamp, “Growing Accustomed to Paris’s New Face,” from The New York Times, June 18, 1995 ; Paul Goldberger, « Toddlin’ Town, » The New Yorker, March 9, 2009, pp. 80-81 ; Richard Bernstein, « The Death and Life of a Great Chinese City, » The New York Review of Books, March 26, 2009, pp. 40-42.

WEEK 7:

Tuesday August 3 – Final Review and discussion

--- Third essay due.

Thursday August 5 – Final Exam