

Oklahoma City University/ American Business School of Paris

Summer 2012

FRE 340 Paris: Culture, History, Art

Dr. Scott Davidson

Office Hours: by appointment

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*This course fulfills the Arts and Human Values requirement of General Education at OCU.

Course Description

This experience-based course examines the evolution of the city of Paris through a study of the evolution of its artistic representations and public spaces. Class time is complemented with walking tours and museum visits relevant to the course material. We will begin with the early origins of the city and move through several quintessential figures in French art, including visits to the Musee Rodin and the Orangerie. Our study will culminate with a look at the emergence of multicultural Paris.

Learning Outcomes

Students will gain increased knowledge of the history, culture, and art of Paris.

Students will develop an increased vocabulary for appreciating and evaluating art through exposure to the major aesthetic theories.

Students will apply the theoretical and historical content of the course to particular works of art in written and oral communication.

Required Textbooks

Colin Jones, *Paris: Biography of a City* (Penguin, 2004).

Terry Barrett, *Why is that Art?* (Oxford, 2008).

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to attend class every day, to stay the full time, and to be prepared to discuss the work that has been assigned.

All submitted work should conform to the assigned format, be the student's own original work and properly cite any other sources consulted.

Students are responsible for monitoring their own learning and communicating any difficulties with the work to me in advance.

Late Work

There will be a 10% deduction for each day that an assignment is late.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. All external sources of information must be documented in the appropriate manner. Failure to do so will result in no credit for the assigned work and an official report to your academic dean of the incident.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit, so it is important to do the work correctly the first time.

Grade Policy

Grades will follow the university's standard grading system.

Graded Assignments

1. Students will keep a journal log. This will include individual reactions to our excursions as well as short reflective writing assignments that will explore connections between the course material and experiences. (25%)
2. Students will have an attendance/participation grade. (10%)
3. Students will have a short, mid-term paper (4-5 pages). (25%)
4. Students will have a longer final paper in which they extend the material from the course to one of their own aesthetic or cultural experiences in Paris (10-15 pages). (40%)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1

Session 1 – Course Introduction and Food tasting

Session 2 – Discuss Versailles: Ch. 5 and 6 of *Paris*

*Saturday, June 9 - Excursion to Versailles

Week 2

Session 3 –Taste of French history: Visit to Musee Carnavalet

Session 4 – Discuss Ch. 8 and 9 of *Paris: The Paris of Victor Hugo*

– Visit to Victor Hugo Museum

*Friday and Saturday, June 15-16 - Excursion to Brussels

Week 3

Session 5 - Ch. 1 Introduction to Aesthetics

Session 6 - Ch 2 Realism in Art (Plato and Aristotle)

Visit to Orangerie

Week 4

Session 7 - *Paris* , Ch 10 (first paper due)

Session 8 - Ch. 3 Expressionism (Tolstoy) and Cognitivism (Danto)

Visit Rodin Museum

Week 5

Session 9 - *Paris*, Ch. 11

Session 10 - Ch. 4 Formalism (Kant and Bell)

Visit Pompidou Center

Week 6

Session 11 - *Paris*, Ch. 12 and Ch. 5 Postmodernism (Benjamin and Baudrillard)

Excursion to Institut du Monde Arabe

Session 12 - Conclusion (Final paper due)

*Schedule details are subject to change, but any changes will be announced well in advance.