

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN PARIS—UCEAP

Required Course

City and Language (lower- division, 5 units)

Subject Areas: French, History Urban Studies

The city and language course introduces students to French history, culture, and language through team-taught instruction.

In the “City as Public Forum” sessions, students will be introduced to French history and culture through a series of lectures and site visits. Students will discover some of the fascinating ways the core principles of social justice were tested in theory and practice on the streets of Paris in the past and explore how they evolved into the pillars of French society today.

The course will focus on just how an ideal society should be forged where all are free individuals and members of a cohesive community at the same time. Trying to make individuals believe—as religions do—in the primacy of the collective, and its concomitant goal of protecting human rights, is at the core of social justice in France. From 52 B.C.E to today, France has been an exemplar of how—and how not—to construct a just society. To render these values visible, and therefore legible, to all by adding a physical dimension—whether constructive or destructive—to the usual means of establishing laws or setting policies, is what distinguishes the history of France’s capital city of Paris. Those who control Paris—be they monarchs, revolutionaries, or presidents, past and present—believe that erecting all kinds of physical structures will render their values concrete and immutable. The ideal French society did not always necessarily mean a democratic one. Since the French Revolution, however, institutionalizing the concept of “liberty, equality, and fraternity” has been France’s greatest universal achievement and a source of constant upheaval, eliciting a unique form of secular activism that has led to targeting buildings and monuments that no longer reflect the collective’s values. Students will learn about how the French continue to thrust their bodies and minds into the physical spaces of the public sphere in the pursuit of social justice.

In the “Unlocking French” sessions, students will learn targeted language skills through situational communication, so they will have the opportunity to use everything they learn as they go about their daily activities.

Elective Courses

Social Justice in the Corporate World: CSR in France (upper-division, 5 units)

Subject Areas: Business Administration, French, Legal Studies, Sociology

Twelve French companies appear in the top 100 on Corporate Knights 2017 list of most sustainable companies. France with the UK stood at 11th position whereas the US at 19th position for global leadership in corporate social responsibility. Companies subject to the legislation surrounding CSR must establish and implement a stringent and enforceable plan that not only aspires to identify but also to prevent human rights’ violations, breaches of fundamental freedoms, violations of health and safety rights of people, as well as environmental damages. CSR, defined by the European Commission as “companies taking responsibility for their impact on society,” is an increasingly important issue on the international agenda and is the subject of negotiations within many bodies. These negotiations deal with environmental, social and societal issues, thus covering many areas (e.g. human rights, corruption, supply chain, transfer prices, taxation, bio-diversity) and are taking place within very diverse institutions.

This course on CSR in France aims at 1) developing an interest in the corporate world from a ‘social responsibility perspective’ and with a specific focus on French companies 2) evaluating whether organizations should diversify and expand their focus from serving stockholders to diverse stakeholders (e.g., environment, women, minorities), 3) asking and attempting to answer complex

questions without arriving at simple solutions. Questions include the obligations that French businesses have to the society in which they operate and whether (and if so, under what conditions) can the interests of corporations and their outside stakeholders be aligned, 4) understanding the meaning of CSR, its definitions, how to map out stakeholders, how to combine ethics and corporate behavior, how to conduct performance evaluations and reporting, the impact of globalization and strategies for CSR, the roles and styles of leadership for successful CSR, 5) Interrogating CSR using real world examples of corporations in France (e.g., BNP, Air France, Coke, Starbucks, Honda, Nike, Allianz etc.), 6) interactive exchanges in written and oral forms to allow students to develop skills that they can use as future managers, employees or social actors who suffer injustice at the hands of corporations.

Confronting Injustice: Youth Protest Movements in France (upper-division, 5 units)

Subject Areas: French, History, Political Science, Sociology

One of the oldest traditions in France has been la *contestation*: a word that can be translated as questioning, entering into a dispute, confronting, protesting or simply contesting. French history has consequently borne the imprint of this long and lively history. More often than not these movements have been led by the youth, for whom protest was a means to bring about change and right what they viewed as wrong.

This course aims to journey through a number of such movements and investigate what was being contested, why, what was being proposed in its place, why and what was achieved as a result. We will start with the 19th century on the barricades of 1848 and the Paris Commune, where the youth often paid with their lives for their ideals. We will analyze the texts of the thinkers and intellectuals who gave the youth the tools to question the status quo. We will visit the 20th century, when the youth were faced with two cataclysmic wars in which their contestation became synonymous with choice, freedom and resistance. We will then concentrate on the movement that culminated in the year 1968, when the streets of Paris and other major cities witnessed an unprecedented level of contestation, challenging the all-powerful government of Général de Gaulle. Here, too, we will study the texts that questioned authority. We will end with a glance at the beginning of the 21st century, where the youth—faced with the consequences of globalization, ecological concerns, unemployment at home and wars beyond their borders leading to major waves of migration—continue to confront and question what they view as unfair and unjust.

Media, Violence and Social Justice in France (upper-division, 5 units)

Subject Areas: Communication, Film and Media Studies, French, Sociology

This course will explore the interconnectivity between the rapid evolution of media outlets and content, the contemporary 'banalization' of terrorist and other types of violence and their fallout over issues related to social justice in France and Europe.

The course will examine some recent forms of social confrontation and the way these confrontations are channeled on a grand scale through mass media, both 'old' and 'new'. We will interrogate the political, economic, cultural, and psychological implications, as well as the "spectatorship component," related to the growing, constant sharing of violence over public platforms and political agendas.

Different cases of social controversies will be studied and compared as we probe their relevance to some larger, technological and globalized frames of analysis. The course will examine the adjustments political institutions, social bodies and media actors have practiced when faced with these forms of protest in moments of crisis. We will also attempt to understand how, and to what extent, all these altered notions have impacted national, sectorial and class-oriented identities.

Social Justice and Activism in French Cinema (upper-division, 5 units)

Subject Areas: Film and Media Studies, French, Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies

This course will examine how French cinema has become an artistic vehicle to raise social issues and push for social justice and activism. The course will start with the impact that World War II had on cinema, as films were a strategy to express opposition to Nazi Germany, a way to raise awareness in *La règle du jeu* by Renoir and in Franju's documentary *Le Sang des bêtes*, and subsequently a way to remember the horror, an archive, in *Nuit et Brouillard* by Alain Resnais. We will then turn to Mai 68 as a cultural movement that started as a workers' and students' revolt. We will see how cinema has portrayed this desire for social justice and activism with Jean-Luc Godard's political film *Tout va bien* and Olivier Assayas' version of what happened in the aftermath with *Après Mai*. To deepen the analysis of how working class issues are represented, we will turn to two recent films: *Louise Wimmer* and *La Loi du Marché*. The class will then focus on burning issues, exploring how the banlieue is portrayed in French cinema today with *Bande de Filles* (Céline Sciamma) and *Divines* (Houda Benyamina). We will see how the documentary *Ouvrir la voix* by Amandine Gay and Claire Denis' *White Material* underscore the importance of postcolonial issues and are a call for activism. We will finally turn to how feminism and LGBT questions are now at the center of social activism. We will question how feminist issues are present in French cinema, and how art will absorb the cultural revolution that is in now taking place in the aftermath of the MeToo and Time's Up movements.

Internship course (upper-division, 5 units)

Internships will be related to the topics of the elective courses on offer in the context of the social justice program's context. Students will be assigned an internship based on their elective course enrollment from a pre-determined bank of internship hosts. Internships will be part-time.

The research seminar will guide students through the processes of integration into their internship host's culture, understanding its intercultural dimensions, and the completion of a research project, which will result in a research paper.