COURSE DESCRIPTION
France's history with social and ethnic diversity is very different from that of the United States, even though the revolutions that founded the two republics are separated by no more than thirteen years and were nourished by the same Enlightenment philosophical tradition. If the United States thinks of itself as a multicultural "melting pot," France has a tendency to think of itself as a revolutionary nation. Both of these images of how one belongs to either nation have a grain of truth, but both are also far from encompassing the fully problematic sense of belonging to either country. This interdisciplinary course will explore how diversity has (and has not) been articulated in France's political traditions and how these traditions inform contemporary social situations. Articles in political theory and sociology will help students gain an idea of the ways social scientists studying France have articulated the relations between nation, citizenship, and cosmopolitanism. Literary accounts will serve as an experiential lens to help us understand the concrete implications of these notions. This course seeks to give students a fuller idea of the complexity of belonging in France. 4.0 credits. Suggested subject areas for this course: Sociology/Comparative Literature/Political Science

COURSE MATERIALS
Romain Gary, The Life Before Us
Alain Mabanckou, Black Bazaar
Course Reader (hereafter [CR])

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Attendance at lectures and site visits is mandatory. It is essential that you attend all classes and participate actively. As per the UC Attendance Policy, excessive absences and tardies will result in a lowered final grade. Please refer to the UC Perspectives on the Global City Program Academic Handbook for the policy on absences and tardies.

Participation and reading assignments are critical. For the purposes of this class, participation means reading the materials in advance, coming to class on time, staying for the entire class period, and actively taking part in discussions and other in-class exercises and activities. A large part of this portion of your grade is simply paying attention; in order to pay attention, you must be present! Lateness and absences will have a strong negative effect on your participation grade.
Late assignments: Deadlines for assignments are to be respected. Late assignments will be downgraded. There will be NO additional or make up assignments.

Grade Breakdown:
Participation in class discussion: 15%
Presentation: 15%
Paper 1 (4-6 pages): 20%
Paper 2 (4-6 pages): 20%
Final Paper (8-10 pages): 30%

A Note on Academic Dishonesty: Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a failing grade in the class and possible dismissal from the program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as copying of materials from sources, without the acknowledgment of having done so, claiming other’s ideas as one’s own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask your instructor.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: The French Model

*Revolution, Equality and Republicanism*

Required Readings:

*Discovering Cosmopolitanism and Comparing Racisms*

Required Readings:
- James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son* (1955), the four essays of Part III [CR]

Week 2: Does French Multiculturalism Exist?

*Immigration in France and Ethnic Neighborhoods in Paris*

Paper 1 due

Required Readings:
- Christina Horvath, “The Cosmopolitan City “, in Rovisco (Maria) and Nowicka (Magdalena), eds. *The Ashgate Research Companion to Cosmopolitanism*, Farnham, Ashgate, 2011, pp. 87-106. [CR]

Presentations:

"My Pals at Jip's:" A Brazzaville Dandy in Paris

Required Readings:
- Alain Mabanckou, *Black Bazaar* (Serpent's Tail, 2012)

Presentations:
- Baldwin, "Everybody's Protest Novel," "Many Thousands Gone"
- Baldwin, "Notes of a Native Son"
Week 3: Ethnic Diversity and Gentrification

Sociological Walk in Paris (Belleville neighborhood)

Group 1

Required Readings:

Walk in Paris (Belleville neighborhood)

Intercultural contact in Belleville, Part I

Paper 2 due

Required Readings:
- Romain Gary, The Life Before Us (New Directions, 1974), 1-82

Week 4: Laïcité and Religion

Laïcité in general and Islam in particular

Required Readings:

Presentations:

Intercultural contact in Belleville, Part II, and in Senegal

Special course time:

Required Readings:
- Romain Gary, The Life Before Us (New Directions, 1974), 83-182

Presentations:
- Marie Ndiaye, Three Strong Women, Part 1
Week 5: Whither France?

*France and Its Past*

Final Paper due

Required Readings:

Presentations:

*Shedding Light on Clandestine Struggles in the work of Marie Ndiaye*

Required readings:

Presentations:
- *Three Strong Women*, Part 3