City and Language course: Pursuing Paris and Unlocking French
UC Paris ACCENT Staff

Course Description: Paris, the most visited city in the world, is both an historical city and a modern global capital that fashionably wears the old and the new on its sleeve. It is also home to Parisians, whose clichéd image has been shaped in cultural imaginaries from around the globe, but whose identities and cultures are increasingly plural. The city and language course poses this two-fold question: just who is this city for, and how does one unlock its levels? More than a picturesque concentration of streets and buildings, Paris’s urban landscape provides a tableau upon which people have inscribed meaning, message, and significance to state, nation, and culture. To decipher these messages and gain an understanding of Paris’s history and the French culture that has shaped it, we will look at the histories of the conception, construction, and public perception of Parisian sites and place their stories within the larger context of the development of French identity.

The city and language course introduces students to French history, culture, and language through team-taught instruction. In the “Pursuing Paris” sessions, students will learn about French history and culture by visiting sites important to the evolution of the capital city—these sessions will be taught in English. 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.

Course Objectives:
- Students will become active viewers of the city and will be presented techniques to decipher cultural, social, and political messages embedded in the landscapes of neighborhoods, and in the iconography of monuments and the façades of buildings.
- Through active participation in the French sessions, students will learn to navigate the city through targeted language relating to things like transport, shopping for daily needs, eating out, etc. They will also gain an appreciation for French culture and develop skills to compare its differences to their home culture(s).

Grading:
- Unlocking French: Class Participation 20%
- Unlocking French: Culture Project 30%
- Pursuing Paris: Class Participation 20%
- Pursuing Paris: Final Exam 30%

Culture Project/Presentation (Unlocking French): The culture project/presentation aims at evaluating students’ ability to construct a presentation with or without visual supports (e.g., PowerPoint) that reflects the language and cultural skills they have developed through the course material.

Final Exam (Pursuing Paris): The final exam aims at evaluating the students' understanding of the lectures and visits through the venue of an in-class essay consisting of a comprehensive and comparative analysis of a set of historic and current events relating specifically to the overarching themes of the course.
**Academic excursions:** Students participate in mandatory excursions in and around the city of Paris. Excursions include: Paris Mosque Tea Room, Walls of the Louvre, Île de la Cité, Les Halles, l’Arc de Triomphe, château at Chantilly, and Palais Garnier.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is expected in all course meetings, course-related activities and visits/excursions on UCEAP programs.

- Students should plan to arrive on time to all course meetings. Students will be marked absent if they are not present at the start of class. Students will also be marked absent if they skip out early.
- Roll will be called as a matter of course. The class register is the official record of student attendance.
- Absences will adversely affect course participation grades. Students will be required to meet with the Academic Director if it is determined that their lack of participation in a course has a negative impact on the other students in the class (e.g., group presentations). When appropriate, the Academic Director will confer with UCEAP on disciplinary measures to take, including probation and dismissal from the program.
- No MAKE-UPS for missed work: if a student is absent on a day when there is some form of assessment (quiz, test, presentation, exam, etc.), there will be no make-ups.
- NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS: due to the intensive nature of the program, no late assignments will be accepted and no extensions will be given.
- No guests are allowed to participate in any UCEAP courses or site visits.