COURSE DESCRIPTION
The most visited city in the world, Paris poses this central question: just who are cities for? More than a picturesque concentration of streets and buildings, cities are historical crossroads where “the people” engender both the greatest problems yet offer all the potential solutions.

Plato equated the ideal city to that of a well-functioning body. So was Paris ever in healthy equilibrium? Rarely. Throughout its history Paris has more often been deemed gravely ill. Even today, analyses continue to differ as to the cause, the nature, and the means needed to cure all of its afflictions.

Exactly which “people” should be entrusted to repair, renew, or spare any urban space’s infrastructure and social geography? Are city-planners doctors who “first do no harm” or barber-surgeons who slash away at the skin and bones of ancient communities?

And “which people” should be catered to: kings, shopkeepers, emperors, revolutionaries, or even tourists? It seems that while everyone who comes to Paris has tried to leave his/her trace on the face of this beautiful invalid – from symbol-encrusted monuments to love-locks – some of these piercings and tattoos have been more permanently inscribed on our neighborhoods than others.

Using the body of Paris as our main text in this course, we will dissect the history of its social, political, and physical anatomy in order to rewrite our assumptions about what it takes to keep cities alive, “authentic,” and human. We will examine and discuss material ranging from scholarly texts to contemporary commentary, visit key sites around Paris, view the city and its people as interpreted through caricature, film, and song, as well as assess current news articles dealing with issues that affect the bodies of cities around the globe. 4.0 credits.

Suggested subject areas for this course: History/Urban Studies/Sociology

COURSE MATERIALS
Philippe Simon, Paris, visite guidée: architecture, urbanism, history and actuality
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, absences and tardies will result in
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.

Assignments: Deadlines for assignments are to be respected. There will be NO extensions on assignments, nor will there be any additional or make up assignments.

Grade Breakdown:
Participation in class discussion: 15%
Oral Presentation: 15%
Weekly Quizzes: 20%
Paper (6-8 pages): 20%
Final Exam: 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 duly citing them, 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.

A Note on Electronic Devices: As a courtesy to your instructor and fellow students, please do not use cell phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, or other electronic devices during class, even to check the time. Make sure phones are turned off. Use of these devices will lower your participation grade. No recording (audio or visual) of class sessions will be permitted.
COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change at the instructor’s discretion)

WEEK ZERO

Friday, March 25th 10:00 am-1:00 pm:
CITIES IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH
Tracing the socio-historical geography of Paris since 52 B.C.E., a city that refuses to die.

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:


Screening: Scenes from *Love in the Afternoon* (1957) and *Funny Face* (1956).

Listening: Words and music: Mistinguett, “Ça, c’est Paris” (1931)

WEEK ONE

Tuesday, March 29th:
TATTOOS ON SKIN, MUSCLE PROTECTING BONES
How governments can protect yet impose themselves on cities.

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:


SITE VISIT:
*The walls of and around the Louvre – fortress, castle, museum. 800 years later, still unfinished*
Thursday, March 31st:
POISON AND ITS POSSIBLE ANTIDOTES

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Ch. 2, pp. 26-33


Screening: Scene: “Kill Them All” from DW Griffith, Intolerance (1916).

Oral presentation
Group 1:
1) Place des Vosges
2) Place de la République
3) La Grande Mosquée

WEEK TWO

Tuesday, April 5th 9:30 AT ACCENT
VERSAILLES: IDEAL CITY? OR IS THE HEAD SEVERED FROM THE BODY?

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Ch. 3, pp. 34-41


SITE VISIT:
**Bright eyes and beating heart:** *Le Palais Garnier*

Thursday, April 7th:
**HOLD YOUR NOSE: WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH PERISTALSIS**

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

- Simon, *Paris Visite Guidée*, Ch. 4, pp. 42-51

**Oral presentation**
**Group 2:**
1) The Sewer Museum
2) The Catacombs
3) Fragonard Perfume Museum

WEEK THREE:

Tuesday, April 12th:
**NAILS CLAW AT THE FACE: OF KINGS, RABBLE, AND RUBBLE**

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:


Screening: Scenes from The Scarlet Pimpernel (1934); Sacha Guitry, Si Versailles m'était conté, Edith Piaf sings “Ça ira.”

Listening: Words and music: “La Carmagnole”

Thursday, April 14th:
UNBLOCKED ARTERIES, CUT VEINS, PAINFUL ERECTIONS

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée. Ch. 5-6-7, pp. 52-83


**Oral presentation**

Group 3:
1) The View from atop Notre Dame de Paris
2) The View from atop the Tour Montparnasse
3) The View from the Passerelle Simone-de-Beauvoir

**WEEK FOUR:**

**Tuesday, April 19th:**
**PAPER DUE**

**THE TONGUE AND THE BELLY OF PARIS**

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

- Simon, *Paris Visite Guidée*, Ch. 8-11, pp. 84-131
- Statistics relating to seasonal mortality rates and the price of bread in the 17th and 18th centuries. [CR]
- Reuters News Feed: “Egypt’s Sisi Scores Early Success with Smart Cards for Bread Subsidies,” January 12, 2015. [CR]


**SITE VISIT:**

**Beauty marks or pimples?: *Les Halles/Centre Pompidou***
Thursday, April 21st:
TEARS: WET OR DRY?
Sites that cite trauma. Do they help us heal?

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Adam Gopnik, “Comment: Civil War Memorials,” The New Yorker, May 9, 2011, pp. 21-22. [CR]


Group 4: Will present a slide show or short film of their exploration of
1) The “Mur des Fédérés” in Père Lachaise cemetery
2) The Sacré Coeur
3) The “Memorial des déportés” behind Notre Dame cathedral on the Ile de la cité.

Friday, April 22nd 10:00 am-2:00 pm:
ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION

Screening: Chacun cherche son chat [When the Cat’s Away], Cedric Klapisch, 1996.

Please come prepared to discuss the following readings:

Simon, Paris Visite Guidée, Chs. 12-13, pp. 132-176

Kenneth Silver, “Purism: Straightening Up after the Great War,” Artforum 15.7 (March 1977): pp. 56-63. [CR]


“Naked Italians on a Street in Barcelona, August 21, 2014. Photo: Vincens Forner. [CR]


Saturday: EXCURSION TO VERSAILLES!

WEEK FIVE:

Tuesday, April 26th: FINAL EXAM (10 am-12 pm)