

HISTORY OF PARIS

THE MAKING OF A CITY

Teacher: Linnéa Rollenhagen Tilly
Academic year 2017/2018 : Fall semester

COURSE SESSIONS

Séance 1: Guidelines for the course & the origins of Paris

Lecture, film and discussion

Presentation of the course and a general introduction to the urban study of Paris. Introduction to the history of Paris: its earlier human settlements and knowledge about Antic Paris, Lutetia (urban design and functions).

Séance 2: Medieval Paris

Lecture, film and discussion

Turned into the capital by the first Frankish Christian king, Clovis, in the second half of the 5th century Lutetia changed name to Paris. During the following 1000 years the city became an European center of education and commerce, accompanied by an urban growth with the construction of many churches behind important fortifications.

Séance 3: Medieval religious Paris

Field study at the cathedral Notre-Dame

During this outing we are going to observe Paris most well-known Christian landmark: the cathedral. The study of this monument on site gives the opportunity to understand the complex construction of a church as to compare the Romanesque and Gothic styles

Séance 4 : 16th-17th century Paris

Lecture and discussion

The Renaissance was introduced in France through the 16th century. Leading to a smooth rupture with the medieval culture and the birth of the French modern style, the classicism was finalized during Louis XIV's reign in second half of the 17th century, turning Paris into a Modern "city of Arts".

Séance 5: 18th century Paris

Lecture, film and discussion

The century of Enlightenment laid the grounds for a radical rupture in the French history, with the Revolution in 1789. Philosophers and Economists started to pay interest to the urban factor, leading to a movement of Modernising (Embellishing) French Provincial cities in the first half of the 18th century, the movement reached Paris only in the second half of the century. In the first half of the century the Western suburbs of the city were transformed into exclusive residential areas by the aristocracy, and during the reign of Louis XV the capital got three modern monuments commissioned by the monarchy.

Séance 6: The faubourg Saint-Germain

Field study in the faubourg Saint-Germain and at the hôtel des Invalides.

Urbanized since the 17th century, the faubourg Saint-Germain really expanded through the 18th century. Since then this area is famous for its exclusive mansions. At the outskirts lays the hotel des Invalides, well known for Napoleons tomb but less well known for its history.

Séance 7: 19th century Paris

Lecture, film and discussion

The French Revolution changed the structure of the French society in a radical way, this transformation can clearly be studied through the architectural commissions and new infrastructures in a city. With the industrialization Paris concentrated an important part of this activity in France, thus leading to an extreme growth of the population (from 500 000 inhabitants to 2 million in less than 70 years). Through the first half of the century the city administrators tried to adapt the city to its new needs, but these changes weren't sufficient before the Second Empire (1852-1870) with the radical remodeling of Paris by the prefect Haussmann and Napoléon III.

Séance 8: Modern Movements

Lecture, film and discussion

Paris held five World's Fairs in the second half of the 19th century, for each of these events new infrastructures were conceived. Many lasted only during the exhibition, but some still stand in today. Serving as a laboratory for modern materials (metal, glass, concrete etc.) and new functions (rail-way stations, department stores, hotels etc.), these interventions participated in an efficient way to the remodeling of Paris

Séance 9: Post-War Paris

Lecture, film and discussion

Since the 17th century administrators, politicians, architects, etc. deal with the density and a lack of space in Paris, searching to find a balance between old and new. In this lecture we will discuss more or less realistic suggestions, and some architectural "scandals" that later became beloved landmarks, through the 20th century; how to adapt Paris to Modern needs, without ruining its initial urban character.

Séance 10: Contemporary Paris

Lecture, group presentations and discussion

The petrol-crisis in the mid 1970's marked a rupture in the view upon buildings in the Western world. Due to political changing's this rupture was even more radical in Paris, with a return to more conservative patterns. With the presidency of François Mitterrand, international architecture was introduced to the city in a massive way.

Séance 11: The building of the Louvre and the gardens of the Tuileries

Field study at Louvre and the Tuileries

During this outing we will track 800 years of building history: see how a fortress outside Paris was transformed into a Royal palace inside the city limits, how it later was connected to another Royal palace with gardens out-side the city; and how the Louvre finally became a museum.

Séance 12: Tomorrow: A Greater Paris?

Lecture, group presentations and discussion

Since the beginning of the 21st century politicians, architects, city-planners, administrators etc. are working on proposals for an extension of Paris. It is a very political and expensive project. Discussing arguments for and against different suggestions during this lecture, you will get insight in this debate.

Personal work and grading

The learning objectives of this course are to get a basic knowledge of the chronology and main stages of Paris urban history, to discern and describe architectural elements from different historical periods, and more generally to understand the making of a city and interpret the symbolism of various styles.

Before each lecture read the readings available on the web-site.

During the semester you'll be graded for your personal work through a field report (25%, 2 pages), a group presentation in class (25 %), an individual presentation during one of the field studies or in class (25%), and a research paper (25 %, 3 pages).

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