

OIELSX15 - France and the Arts

Professor: Ludovic Le Saux
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Department: International affairs
Semester: 1

Course level: L3 Undergraduate/Graduate
Domain: History / Art History
Teaching language: English
Number of in-class hours: 33
Number of course sessions: 10 + Exam
ECTS: 6

Course description and objectives

France and French culture have a multifaceted and global notoriety, which implies in turn many more or less truthful clichés – and art plays a key role in this popular imagination. This course aims at studying the role of the arts in France by looking at the history of French art through the lens of various periods, artists and forms of art (visual arts, decorative arts, craftsmanship, perfumes, video games, cinema and series). The course will pair the study of these types of art with their representations and/or reappropriations in other countries and cultures, sometimes using the pastiche of a style or work of art abroad as a starting point to discover the original French version. This class offers an exploration of France's artistic practices and their portrayals, as well as tools for analysing works of art in a critical and clearly-structured way. Students will be given the opportunity to work on different projects, mostly in groups, in order to reflect on their own experience of France during their stay and put their knowledge into (creative) practice.

Prerequisites

An intermediate to upper-intermediate level in English proficiency (B2+) is recommended.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students should have a good overview of some of France's main and best-known artistic practices, as well as tools and techniques for analysing works of art of various types. They should also be able to shed a critical light on the representation of France in other countries' art, especially through works they will have become more familiar with.

Assignments and grading

- Class mark 60%: Oral presentation and artistic project; a written class test. (More details given in class on the relative share in the marking of these various activities)
- Final exam: 40%

The numerical grade distribution will dictate the final grade. The passing grade for a course is 10/20.

Class participation: Active class participation – this is what makes classes lively and instructive. Come on time and prepared. Class participation is based on quality of comments, not quantity.

Exam policy: In the exam, students will not be allowed to bring any document (except if allowed by the lecturer). Unexcused absences from exams or failure to submit cases will result in zero grades in the calculation of numerical averages. Exams are collected at the end of examination periods.

Course structure

Session	Topic
1	Introduction: Manet, Chanel or <i>Emily in Paris</i> ? The art(s) of being French
2	Hausmann, Versailles and châteaux by the Loire – French architecture
3	Arc de Triomphe, sphinxes and Egyptian Revival – the Empire style
4	Paleoart, dinosaurs & fossils – from J. Hermann’s pterosaur to B. Sokal’s <i>Syberia</i>
5	‘I can’t imagine Monsieur Monet blushing’ – Impressionism and <i>Japonisme</i>
6	The Belle Époque – Élisabeth Sonrel, James Tissot & Art Nouveau
7	Perfume(s) – Fragonard, Provence and P. Süskind
8	Louise Bourgeois: sculpture, surrealism and feminism
9	The Decisive Moment – Sabine Weiss, Willy Ronis and Humanist photography
10	From Belle and Rémi, to Amélie and Emily: France in Disney films and popular fiction
11	Final Exam

Bibliography

Recommendations for reading and watching will be provided in class

Lecturer’s biography

Lecturer (Professeur Agrégé) in English Language and Cultural Studies at the Université Paris Dauphine-PSL

Moodle

This course is on Moodle: **XXX**

Academic integrity

Be aware of the rules in Université Paris Dauphine about plagiarism and cheating during exams. All work turned in for this course must be your own work, or that of your own group. Working as part of a group implies that you are an active participant and fully contributed to the output produced by that group.