Syllabus: UN 1001: Perspectives on Paris

Fall 2007 Sections R57 and R58
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Office: Walker 341 Office hours: Mon., Wed., 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. or by appointment.
Section R57: MWF 11:05 a.m. – 11:55 a.m., Fisher Room 230
Section R58: MWF 12:05 p.m. – 12:55 p.m., Fisher Room 101

Required Texts: You will be required to purchase the following books and read certain pages from them, indicated on the Web CT calendar of assignments. Other pages from them can be read for research papers and oral presentations. You are not required to read every book in its entirety (with the exception of Letters from a Peruvian Woman) but you may wish to read one of the novels completely if you choose it as a research topic. These are available from the Campus Book Store:


During the course some current news articles or short stories available on the Internet may also be assigned as required readings.

Readings on library reserve: A few required and supplementary readings are or will be on regular paper reserve, available at the library circulation desk. Additional readings will be on electronic library reserve. To access these, go to the Van Pelt Library Web site: http://www.lib.mtu.edu. Under Library Resources click on Course Reserve. Then next to Instructor, choose Anderson, Michele. You should then be able to navigate to the reserve readings for this class.

Use of readings on reserve: With the paper/book reserve items, you will see Americans in Paris: a literary anthology / Adam Gopnik, editor. This includes a variety of readings you can use for your essays and oral presentations. Items on the paper reserve, such as this book, may be checked out for 2 hours at a time at the library circulation desk on the first floor and used in the library. Please do not remove them from the library. Later in the course additional optional readings may be added to this list or to the electronic reserve list. You should be able to access the electronic reserve items from any university computer or from your home computer if you have a HuskyMail password. The electronic reserve items will also have a password for this class only. It will be announced in class.

Purpose: This course, Perspectives on Paris, is described on the UN 1001 Web site as follows:

How is Paris different from most American cities, and how is it similar to cities you know? Sometimes called the City of Light, Paris continues to be an important center of intellectual, cultural, and economic activity. Historically it has been the scene of revolutions, artistic and
literary movements, and years of Nazi occupation followed by joyous liberation of its freedom-loving people. Authors from many countries have described Parisians, their culture and their city in both fiction and nonfiction. We will read, discuss and compare the works of some of these writers -- from Victor Hugo to Colette to Hemingway -- and we will examine films that complement and contradict these written descriptions.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation are mandatory. Much of the course involves conversation about course readings. If you miss those conversations, you will have missed a good deal of the course content. It may be possible to make up missed journal questions for an excused absence but you must see the instructor. Unexcused absences will affect your grade. Some class activities will be done in small groups, but keep in mind that the grades are for individual participation, not general group grades. If, for example, your group participates in a discussion, but you obviously are unable to participate since you have not read the material assigned, you will not receive a satisfactory participation grade for that activity.

Writing Assignments:

In Class Journal: During each class session for which there are assigned readings, you will be asked to write one or more in-class journal entries. The entries will provide you an opportunity to reflect on the material you have read and to record your reactions in a focused way. These entries are not formal and need not be polished or well organized. The act of writing should stimulate you to make connections you might not previously have made. Journal questions count as informal writing and lead to class discussions. If you keep up with the readings as assigned, you should do well on these. I usually collect them and write comments on them when I believe this may be helpful to you.

Portfolio Analysis: At the end of the course you will prepare a portfolio analysis (at least a handwritten page long) that provides a commentary on your in-class journal entries, your drafts and final papers. Keep all your writing assignments, drafts and final versions, in a folder so that you can examine your own progress. What are some strengths of your performance on these assignments? What are some limitations? In what way do you think your writing has improved?

Formal Writing: Two formal papers will be required. Drafts will be required for each and will count as formal writing assignments. For the research essay, you will first be asked to hand in an outline with a list of possible sources you have consulted for your works cited and a draft of your first page.

1. The first is a creative essay of at least five typed pages, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in which you write a letter or letters in a style modeled on the letter writers we will study: Mme de Sévigné (17th century), Françoise de Graffigny (18th century) or George Sand (19th century). Like Mme de Sévigné or George Sand, you may wish to describe an exciting event or even a daily routine in Paris to a relative or friend in a different city or another country or an event in the U.S. to a Parisian friend who is unfamiliar with American culture. Or you may wish to imitate Graffigny's approach to social criticism by describing a culture you know through the eyes of a visitor from another culture or even another planet. This could be a trip through time as well as space. You must include in the letter(s) something you've learned about Paris from the readings. You must create a persona for the writer and the recipient of the letter. (We learn about the person to whom you are writing through your letter.)

2. The second is a research essay of at least five typed pages, double-spaced, in which you relate assigned readings on Paris to additional material (e.g., short stories, essays or further passages from one of the novels) not assigned for class discussion. (You may have a title page, but the title and Works Cited pages do not count in the 5-page requirement for the paper.) The additional material may be from course texts or other texts found in the library (see anthologies on reserve, for example) and should amount to at least 50 pages of additional reading. Issues might involve, but are not limited to, character analyses, themes, point of view, cultural or historical backgrounds of the authors or works, or a comparison of assigned and unassigned works. For this essay you will be required to consult at least three background sources on Paris and to include any sources you use for the paper in a list of Works Cited. * You may wish to compare/contrast a French author with a non-French author.
* Background sources may be historical or cultural references, literary criticism, etc. If you use an Internet source, you must still give as complete a reference as possible. This will be discussed in class and during the library research sessions with a reference librarian who will direct you to sources.

**Late Papers:** Since the course emphasizes the revision process and since it is important that formal oral presentations be based on essays, the drafts and final essays must be submitted on time. Late papers will affect your grade.

**Oral Reports:** At least once during the semester (or more often for extra credit) you will report to the class on photocopied or printed material that is pertinent to the course but that the other students are not required to read. The material should be different from the readings you discuss in your formal oral presentation on an essay. (See below). Reports should be about five minutes long and should include a description of the work and a discussion of connections between the new material and material the class has read together. **You are encouraged to use a visual aid (projected images, outlines, digital photos, handout for the class, etc.) to make your report more interesting for the class.**

**Formal Presentation:** You will have an opportunity to present essay 2 in a formal presentation of about 5 minutes. The presentation should be based on the paper you have submitted but should be tailored for oral delivery and illustrated by a visual aid (transparency, poster, photos, etc.). Notify the instructor in advance if you will need any equipment other than the projectors, VCR player or DVD player provided in Room 127. Your presentation should be accompanied by an outline that includes a thesis statement that is a summary of your presentation. Early in the course, you will be asked to notify the instructor as to the subject of your presentation.

* You must use at least one visual aid for either the report or the formal presentation. For both the reports and the formal presentation, your ability to present material without reading word for word will help your grade. Creative visuals should help you with this.

**Supplies:** You'll need a file folder to hold journal entries, drafts, and revisions. In-class journal entries will be collected in class and returned. Keep a file of them to monitor your own progress. Consult the Web CT calendar frequently for assignments and due dates for essays (drafts and revisions) Please have the file folder by Monday, Sept. 10. You will also need a notebook: **Take notes on readings** whenever possible, especially on the library reserve readings (You may also make one photocopy of any of these and highlight or underline your copy and bring it to class.)

**Grades:** Your grade will be based on the following:  
- Attendance and participation in class discussion 25%  
- Journal questions, portfolio analysis 15%  
- Oral Reports* 5%  
- Formal essay # 1 25%  
- Formal essay # 2 25%  
- Formal oral presentation for essay 2* 5%  
*One of the oral assignments must include use of a visual aid.

Handouts with more explanation on documenting research essays, criteria for essay grades, etc., will be posted on the Web CT for the course or emailed to you through the class list-serv. To access the Web CT, go to www.mtu.edu. Then type in this address: newcourses.mtu.edu. You will have to enter your username and password to access a page with links to your class Web CT sites. Click on Perspectives on
Paris. Then click on calendar. **When you find the date of a class, click on it in order to find the assignments to be prepared for that day.**

Remember that formal essays should have titles. Please leave at least an inch margin on the sides and top and bottom of the paper and remember to **number the pages on papers.** Label all work. Include your name, the date, the title of the paper and an indication as to whether the paper is a draft, a (final) formal paper, or a revision. In some cases you may be asked to do a revision to improve the grade given on your final (second or third) draft.

**MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).** If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

**Note:** It may be necessary to alter the syllabus as the course proceeds in order to better meet the instructional needs of the class.

**Plagiarism**—using the ideas or words of others without acknowledging the source—is unethical and a violation of University policy. Plagiarism cases will be handled by the Office of the Dean of Students. Some consequences of plagiarism could be failure of a paper or course. The University has subscribed to an anti-plagiarism service that can detect plagiarized material. Class discussion will include some instruction on the proper way to cite the ideas of someone else. If you still have questions on this, feel free to ask these in class or please see the instructor during office hours. Please consult **MTU's Academic Integrity Policy** ([http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html](http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html)) to be sure you understand your responsibility for research and writing assignments.

**Writing Center** — Writing coaches are available in the Writing Center, Room 107 on the first floor in the Walker Arts and Humanities building. Visit their Web site ([http://www.hu.mtu.edu/wc/](http://www.hu.mtu.edu/wc/)) for their hours and more information about their services.