History 101
Introduction to Historical Investigation
Americans in Paris
MWF, 9:10-10:10

Course Objectives

For many years, Americans have been fascinated with France as a land of art, literature, philosophy, and exciting political ideas, among other things. Likewise, the French have long been interested in America as a signal of things to come and, more recently, as the source for much of the worldwide mass culture of the late twentieth century (from the latest Hollywood movies to McDonald’s to rap music). How has this relationship evolved over the course of the twentieth century, and what does it tell us about ways in which the “Old World” of Europe and the “New World” of America have come to interact? How do other places serve as mirrors for our own culture and experience? Why have these two nations shared such a close relationship in the minds of their inhabitants during the twentieth century?

In addition to these themes, this course will also serve as an introduction to historical methodology by helping students to learn about the ways in which historians think, read, research, and write about the past and the present. You will be required to complete several short writing assignments and four 5-page essays (one of which will be a short research project, and another a book review essay.)

Books Available for Purchase in the Bookstore

William Kelleher Storey, Writing History: A Guide for Students
Kate L. Turabian, A Student’s Guide for Writing College Papers
Harvey Levenstein, Seductive Journey: American Tourists in Paris from Jefferson to the Jazz Age
Ernest Hemingway, A Moveable Feast
Janet Flanner, Paris Was Yesterday: 1925-1939
Jack Kerouac, Satori in Paris
Tyler Stovall, Paris Noir: African Americans in the City of Light

Our Schedule For the Semester
Introduction to the Course
In Class: Map of Paris, Pariscope, “Pierce at the Pinnacle”

America and France, 1900-1945
In Class: Declaration of Independence/Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen and Alexis de Tocqueville excerpt

M 1/15 No Class, MLK Holiday

I. The Uses of History

W 1/17 “Using History”:

F 1/19 Library Tour
Reading: Storey, chapter 1; Turabian, chapter 3
Writing: Responding to Rozenzweig and Thelen, write a one page essay on how you “use” history

II. Thinking Historically

M 1/22 Writing Workshop: Organization and Clarity
The “Big Picture” / Identifying Arguments

W 1/24 Reading: Jean-Philippe Mathy (on reserve)
Writing: Write a one page summary of the argument in this essay

F 1/26 Reading: C. Vann Woodward and Daniel J. Boorstin (on reserve)
Writing: Write a one page summary of the arguments in these essays

M 1/29 Writing Workshop: Identifying Arguments
Reading: Levenstein, Seductive Journey, Preface and part I

W 1/31 Reading: Levenstein, part II
F 2/2 Reading: Levenstein, part III

M 2/5 Reading: Levenstein, part IV and Epilogue
W 2/7 Reading: Book Reviews of Levenstein (on reserve)

F 2/9 Writing Workshop: Making Arguments
Reading: Storey, chapter 6
III. Reading Documents

M 2/12 What Are “Documents”
  In Class: Kolakowski, excerpts from Over There, and Levenstein’s footnotes
  Writing: Five page summary and analysis of Levenstein’s argument
  Reading: Storey, chapter 2

W 2/14 Comparing Documents / Texts in Context
  Reading: Excerpt from Sisley Huddleston, Paris Salons, Cafés, Studios (on reserve); Georges Duhamel, America the Menace (on reserve); Storey, chapter 4

F 2/16 Writing Workshop: Revision
  “Speaking Personally”

M 2/19 From Documents to Interpretations: “The Jazz Age”
  Reading: Jeffrey H. Jackson, “Making Enemies: Jazz in Interwar Paris” (on reserve); Warren I. Susman, “A Second Country: The Expatriate Image” (on reserve); Storey, chapter 10

W 2/21 Hemingway (first half)
F 2/23 Hemingway (second half)

M 2/26 Flanner
W 2/28 Flanner

F 3/2 Flanner and Hemingway

M 3/5 Spring Break
W 3/7 Spring Break
F 3/9 Spring Break

IV. Research

M 3/12 America and France, 1945 to the present
  Writing: Five page paper comparing and contrasting Hemingway and Flanner using Huddleston, Duhamel, Susman, and Jackson

W 3/14 The Techniques of Research and Documentation
  Research Teams and Topics Assigned
F 3/16  Reading: Richard F. Kuisel, excerpt #1 from *Seducing the French* (on reserve)
Optional Revision of Essay #1 Due

M 3/19  Research and Writing: Find 2 primary sources about the issues Kuisel describes; Write a one page analysis of how these sources fit into Kuisel’s story

W 3/21  Writing Workshop: Writing with Detail
Reading: Storey, chapter 9; Turabian, chapter 9

F 3/23  Reading: Richard F. Kuisel, excerpt #2 from *Seducing the French* (on reserve)

M 3/26  Kerouac
W 3/28  Kerouac
F 3/30  Reading: Excerpt from *The Beat Hotel* (on reserve)
Writing: Write a two page analysis comparing *The Beat hotel* and Kerouac

M 4/2  Research time
W 4/4  Research time
F 4/6  Research Reports in class
Writing: Five page essay on research topics

V. Writing as an Historian

M 4/9  Writing techniques / Evidence and Quotations
Reading: Storey, chapters 3 and 5
In Class: Humorous Handouts
Optional Revision of Essay #2 Due

W 4/11  Writing Workshop: Models of Writing
Reading: Adam Gopnik, “Like a King,” *New Yorker*, 31 January 2000 (on reserve); Storey chapters 7 and 8; Turabian Appendix A
Writing: Bring in a piece of “good writing” and write a one page description of why you think it’s “good.”

F 4/13  Alternate Narratives
Reading: Excerpt from Simone de Beauvoir, *America Day by Day* (on reserve)

M 4/16  Stovall
W 4/18  Stovall
F 4/20  Stovall
M 4/23 Presentations
W 4/25 Presentations
F 4/27 Final Thoughts / To the Present

Assignment Due: Five page book review essay