



POWER, BEAUTY AND REVOLUTION: 19TH CENTURY ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN THE PARIS METROPOLE

APA Program: Paris: June Short-Term

Language of instruction: English

US semester credits: 4.0

Contact hours: 36

Term availability: June Short-Term (3 weeks)

Instructor: Sara Vitacca, PhD

Course Description

As the nineteenth-century art capital of Europe, Paris offers an ideal window from which to study painting, sculpture, and architecture in this period. In this course, we use the material culture of city and its artistic heritage to examine the major artistic movements of the 19th century as well as to investigate the relationship between art, society and politics. The course emphasizes learning outside the classroom and invites students to critically engage with their surroundings by teaching them to connect what they see in Paris – whether a statue, a building, or a painting – to larger artistic currents and historical phenomena. Most sessions will take place outdoors or in museums to enable students to learn and analyze art and architecture directly in front of it.

Schedule

- All classes meet for two hours

Week 1: Between Neoclassicism and Romantism

- In Class lecture
- Guided visit of Louvre Museum - *Painting stories in the 19th century*: tour of most important artworks by Jean-Louis David, Antoine-Jean Gros, Anne-Louis Girodet, Auguste-Dominique Ingres and Eugène Delacroix
- Guided visit of the historical galleries of the Châteaux de Versailles and the Trianon –*Art and power in the 19th century*: visit of the Empire Room, Coronation Room, Battles’ Room with monumental paintings by Antoine-Jean Gros, François Gérard, Horace Vernet
- Guided visit of the Château de Malmaison – *Inside the Emporor’s Intimacy*: discovery of the furniture, decorative arts and the paintings’ collection in one of the most important residences of Napoleon
- Guided visit of the Petits Augustins Chapel inside the École des Beaux-Arts – *Copying masters and learning art*: academic training in the 19th century through copies of Renaissance masterwork
- Guided visit of Eugène Delacroix Museum

Week 2: The Second Empire and Modernity

- In Class lecture
- Guided visit of Musée d'Orsay – *From Academicism to Modernity: the adventure of art in the nineteenth century, the academicism of William Bouguereau, Alexandre Cabanel or Thomas Couture; the Realism of Gustave Courbe and Français Millet; the Modernism of Édouard Manet*
- Guided visit of Parisian passages and of the Opéra Garnier – *Eclecticism and urban splendors in the nineteenth century*
- Guided visit of the Château de Chantilly - *collections and art collectors in the 19th century*
- Visit of the Luxembourg Gardens and the Gardens of the Observatoire, *Sculpture in gardens: between celebration of nature and famous portraits: discovery of hidden masterpieces of Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux, Jules Dalou and other 19th century sculptors*
- Visit of the Hôtel de la Païva – *A courtesan of the Second Empire and the hidden treasures of her hôtel particulier*

Week 3: End of the Century

- In class lecture
- Visit of the Petit Palais Museum – *Paris 1900: George Clarin, Paul Gauguin, Camille Alaphilippe, Émile Gallé and French art at the turn of the century*
- Guided visit of the Gustave Moreau Museum – *Myths, dreams and chimeras of one of the precursors of symbolism*
- Guided visit of the Orangerie Museum – *Monet and the Nympeas*
- Guided visit of the Rodin Museum in Meudon – *The sculptor's studio* – visit of Rodin's gardens and workshop in Meudon, where the sculptor spent the last part of his life, surrounded by his creations
- Guided visit of the Albert Kahn Museum and Gardens – *Visit of the gardens and stereoscopic photograph of Albert Kahn, celebrating the diversity of peoples and cultures*

Assessment

- Class Participation: 25%
- Oral Presentation: 25%
- Paper: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%