

## HISTORY OF FRANCE THROUGH PARISIAN FOOTPRINTS

Professor: **Evan BONNEY**

Session: **July 2024**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of class hours: **24**



### Course Objectives

This course explores key periods in French history from 1789 to the present. Using Paris as a base, it interactively engages learners with the city's landscape to examine themes such as the fall of the French monarchy, the rise of empire, and the transition to industrial capitalism that have all visibly shaped both Paris and the world. Class sessions will discuss these themes, showing that the artistic, intellectual, and political movements that blossomed in their wake have long made France an incubator for political, social, and cultural transformation. With four sessions outside the classroom, learners will also tour two sites and two museums to demonstrate why Paris has been and continues to be a nexus for global change.



### Summary

Structured in eight sessions, this course introduces learners to the history of contemporary France through discussion. Each session will have a required reading that present the session's themes and will be an opportunity for learners to extract key dates and exercise their critical analysis skills. Note that this course is discussion heavy. Lectures will be short as this course encourages students to interact with the Parisian landscape to critically examine how the environment, politics, society, and culture coalesce to both shape and be shaped by each other. Doing so will require learners to discuss in pairs or in larger groups about their thoughts and reflections about Paris, French history, and how its past provides a sharper understanding of France and French culture today.



## Course Schedule

### Session One (Wednesday 3, July):

*Paris revolts: the fall of monarchy & the rise of the first French Empire (1789-1815)*

- **Reading:** Maurice Agulhon, "Paris, A Traversal from East to West" in *Realms of Memory: The Construction of the French Past*, vol. 1, (Columbia University Press, 1996), 223-253.
- **Site visit:** picnic in the Jardin des Tuileries (*weather permitting*)

### Session Two (Friday, 5 July):

*Restoring a dynasty: the Bourbons & the July Monarchy (1815-1848)*

- **Reading:** J Weintraub, "The Paris Night: A Flâneur in Post-Revolutionary Paris." *French History* 35/2 (July 2021), 266–86.

### Session Three (Monday, 8 July):

*Paris takes its form: Hausmann & the Second French Empire (1848-1871)*

- **Reading:** Thompson, Victoria E. "Urban Renovation, Moral Regeneration: Domesticating the Halles in Second-Empire Paris." *French Historical Studies* 20/1 (1997), 87–109.
- **Museum visit:** Musée Carnavalet

### Session Four (Tuesday, 9 July):

*From the bloody Commune to the Expo of the Century: Paris as spectacle (1871-1900)*

- **Reading:** Susan Foley, "'The Christmas Tree of the Alsatians and Lorrainers,'" *French Historical Studies* 41/4 (October 1, 2018), 681–710.

### Session Five (Friday, 12 July):

*Water and disaster in the bustling metropole (1880-1914)*

- **Reading:** Jeffrey H. Jackson, "Envisioning Disaster in the 1910 Paris Flood," *Journal of Urban History* 37/2 (2011), 176–207.
- **Walking tour:** Montmartre, La Seine, & the Paris sewers museum

### Session Six (Monday 15 July):

*Wine, guns, & the Lost Generation: Paris during and after World War I (1914-1940)*

- **Reading:** Ellen Furlough, "Une Leçon Des Choses: Tourism, Empire, and the Nation in Interwar France," *French Historical Studies* 25/3 (2002), 441–73.

### Session Seven (Tuesday, 16 July):

*From war to renewal: France, Europe, and the scars of World War II (1940-1968)*

- **Reading:** Paula Schwartz, "The Politics of Food and Gender in Occupied Paris," *Modern & Contemporary France* 7/1 (February 1999), 35–45.

## Session Eight (Friday, 19 July):

Paris the crucible: France, decolonization, and modern times (1945-2023)

- **Reading:** Rosemary Wakeman, "Public Space and Confrontation," in *The Heroic City: Paris, 1945-1958* (University of Chicago Press, 2009), 1–38.
- **Museum visit:** Porte Dorée - Musée de l'immigration



## Learner Assessment – Requirements for validation

**90% of assessment** - 1,500-word essay or 5-7 minute podcast/video that examines a site of Paris and explains its relevance to French History. More details provided.

**10% of assessment** – Participation



## Professor's Bio



Evan Bonney is a fourth year PhD candidate in history at Sciences Po. Specialist in environmental and global history, he has taught an array of courses at Sciences Po, Paris 3 – Sorbonne Nouvelle, CY Cergy-Paris Université, and IPAG Business School while having also been a visiting fellow at the Weatherhead Initiative for Global History at Harvard University (USA).



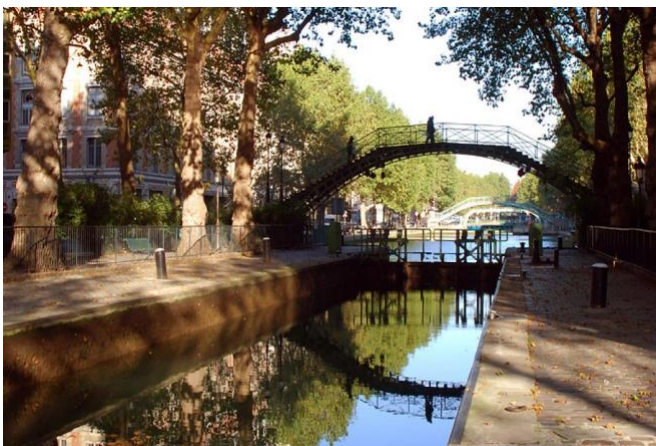
## Visits



Jardin des Tuileries



Musée Carnavalet



Tour of the unique water infrastructure of Paris



Porte Dorée - Musée de l'Immigration