

OIELSX20 (S1) or OIELSY20 (S2) -Welcome to Paris

Professors: Catherine Piola
Contact information:
catherine.piola@dauphine.psl.eu
Department: International affairs
Semester: 1 & 2

Course level: Undergraduate/masters students
Domain: Electives
Teaching language: English
Number of in-class hours: 33
Number of course sessions: 11
ECTS: 6

Course description and objectives

This course is a content course aiming at making students adapt quickly to their French and more precisely Parisian life and make the most of it while being aware of the cultural makeup of the city. The experience of living in the city, even for a short period, can be significantly enhanced thanks to some background knowledge and awareness as to how the capital developed into its current cityscape, what to pay attention to in order to fully appreciate it and how to go about to map one's personal experience of it. The objective is to make students comfortable and more autonomous in the organization of their stay in France, as well as in their daily interactions with French people, understanding of traditions and contemporary lifestyle.

The course is taught in English, yet some documents will require a very basic use of French. Both individual and group activities will be suggested so that the Paris experience will also be shared in class with students from different nationalities.

Prerequisites

The course requires no previous knowledge but a good level of English (B2) is necessary. Students must be curious and eager to actively research and discover French culture. Some sociological notions will help.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to look for information more autonomously and will have acquired the knowledge about Paris and France that anyone having spent time in the capital should be familiar with. They will have to research some topics and present them in class in a personal way, with a view to refine the intercultural experience of a foreigner in a cosmopolitan city. They will be required to write a diary integrating and reacting to some of the content presented and analysed in class and experienced.

Assignments and grading

Continuous assessment	60% (several assignments)
Final exam (in class)	40% (written test)

Course structure

Session	Topic
1	Introduction – mapping France/Paris; glimpses of the 2024 Olympic opening ceremony, debunking myths and stereotypes
2	Landmarks of French History / From Gallic settlements to Roman Lutetia, Paris capital of France, the Middle Ages, living standards, urbanization, population
3	The Revolution and its impacts, the Industrial Revolution, street names, parcs
4	Haussmann and Napoleon III, political/social/territorial divides, arcades, monuments, urban sprawl
5	Parisians districts, North/South and East/West divides, Paris vs le Grand Paris
6	Daily life: bakers', open markets, fusion cuisine, food delivery, tradition vs change, a bohemian-bourgeois, post-aristocratic or proletarian city?
7	Transport: metro/RER, bus, bikes, pedestrian streets and car restrictions, scooters, Seine buses, a greener Paris ?
8	Outings: social and generational options, in-districts vs residential ones, sports,
9	Arts: from opera and museums to street art and flea markets, Paris for free, Paris in literature and visual arts
10	Green Paris policies, non-Parisian views of the capital
11	Challenges, Paris in the future, written test

Bibliography

videos online, official websites of the capital; several accounts of Paris and Parisians through the eyes of both French sociologists and ordinary observers.

Moodle

This course is on Moodle: **No**

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.