

## Belle Epoque France

R. Howard Bloch

Paris, May 27 to July 1, 2017

French S369, Humanities S214, Literature S247,

You should do the reading for each week before our Wednesday or Tuesday meetings, when worksheets are due. You should read Eugen Weber's *France Fin-de-Siècle* before the course begins. We will distribute in Paris special assigned books for class presentation (10 minutes, 15 maximum). NB: There may be some change in the actual dates of presentations.

We will meet for class for the first three weeks on Wednesday and Friday at 1:15-4:15, Ecole Etoile, 38 Blvd. Raspail, Paris 7e, metro Sèvres-Babylone. Class will be held on Tuesday and Thursday in the last two weeks. Please consult syllabus below for excursions. Please be on time for class and for excursions. Do not bring your computer to class unless it is for the purpose of making a presentation. Absolutely no eating in the classroom. If you want to eat between 1:15 and 4:15, please do so during our break, and do not bring food into our sacred learning space, but leave it outside on the table in the hall.

May 29, 2:30, Orientation, Ecole l'Etoile, 38 Blvd. Raspail, Paris 7e

\*Indicates reading available on the V2 server.

### Week I

- **Reading:**

Emile Zola, *Ladies Paradise*; \*Guy de Maupassant, "The Necklace," "The Umbrella," "A Day in the Country."

- **Topics:**

The end of symbolism, realism and naturalism, feminine and masculine dress, the department store, advertising, posters, the decorative arts, the Universal Exposition of 1889, the Eiffel Tower, religion and anticlericalism, anarchism and the Dreyfus Affair.

Wednesday, May 31, Class **Introduction**. Class Worksheet #1 due at beginning of class.

Thursday, June 1 Orsay Museum, 3:45, meet at Bistrot de Paris, 33 rue de Lille. (time to be announced).

Friday, June 2, Rodin Museum 10:30, lunch, Class

## Week II

- **Reading:**

Marcel Proust, *Swann in Love*.

- **Topics:**

Impressionism in painting (Manet, Monet, Degas, Pissarro, Sisley), in sculpture (Rodin), and in music (Debussy, Ravel), the decorative arts, art nouveau in architecture and domestic life

Wednesday, June 7 Worksheet #2 due at beginning of class

-T. J. Clark, *The Painting of Modern Life*

-Charles Rearick, *Pleasures of the Belle Epoque*

Thursday, June 8 Excursion to Monet's home and garden at Giverny, bus departure from l'Ecole l'Etoile, hour TBA.

Friday, June 9 Class

-Richard Mandell, *Paris 1900. The Great World's Fair*

-Joseph Harriss, *The Tallest Tower. Eiffel and the Belle Epoque*

## Week III

- **Reading:**

Colette, *The Vagabond*; Georges Feydeau, "Cat among the Pigeons"

- **Topics:** The family, education, religion and anticlericalism, anarchism, music halls and cafés, space of the city, changes in the condition of women at the end of the century, "the France of rentiers," Erik Satie

Tuesday, June 13, 2:00, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, 107 rue de Rivoli.

Wednesday, June 14 Worksheet #3 due at beginning of class.

-Jennifer Waelti-Walthers and Steven Hause, *Feminisms of the Belle Epoque*

Thursday, June 15, Excursion to the Musée Camondo, 63 rue Monceau, Paris 8e, 10:30 a.m., metro Villiers. Take #12 to Saint-Lazare, #3 to Villiers.

Friday, June 16 Class

-Robert Gottlieb, *The Life of Sarah Bernhardt*

-Rhonda Garelick, *Electric Salome*

#### **Week IV**

- **Reading:**

André Gide, *Lafcadio's Adventures*; \*Jules Barbey d'Aurevilly, "The Vengeance of a Woman"; Joris-Karl Huysmans, *Against Nature*

- **Topics:**

Decadence, primitivism and dadaism in music (Stravinsky), in painting (Rousseau), Nietzsche in France

-Monday, June 19, Excursion, Musée Gustave Moreau, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch.

Tuesday, June 20 Worksheet #4 due at beginning of class

-Kate Cambor, *Gilded Youth*

Thursday, June 22 Class.

-Michel Carmona, *Haussmann. His Life and Times*

#### **Week V**

- **Reading:**

Henri Alain-Fournier, *Big Meaulnes*, \*Guillaume Apollinaire, "Zone"; \*Stéphane Mallarmé, "A Throw of the Dice Never Will Abolish Chance"

- **Topics:**

Space and time relations on the eve of World War I, cubism in painting, the theory of relativity. Worksheet

Tuesday, June 27 Worksheet #5 due at beginning of class.

-H. Stuart Hughes, *Consciousness and Society*

-Stephen Kern, *The Culture of Time and Space*

Wednesday, June 28 Architectural Excursion in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> arrondissement, followed by lunch

Thursday, June 29 Class. **Conclusion**

Saturday, July 1, Paper due, noon, Paris time.

#### **Format:**

Class will consist of mini-lectures by the instructor, discussion, and participant presentations.

**Requirements:**

- weekly reading.
- reading of Eugen Weber's *France. Fin de Siècle*.
- in-class presentation, 10-15 minutes, on a book on a special topic, to be distributed in Paris at first class.
- weekly worksheets.
- paper (10-12 pages) on topic to be developed with instructor.

**Reading List:**

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\*Guillaume Apollinaire, "Zone"

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Colette, *The Vagabond*

Georges Feydeau, "Cat among the Pigeons"

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\*Guy de Maupassant, "The Necklace," "The Umbrella," "A Day in the Country"

Marcel Proust, *Swann in Love*

Emile Zola, *Ladies Paradise*