

Paris, City of Writers and Filmmakers



FSEM 100 2 -unit C/NC
Section #34626
Wednesdays 3:00-4:50
WPH 205

University of Southern California
Dornsife College
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Course description

“He who contemplates the depths of Paris is seized with vertigo. Nothing is more fantastic. Nothing is more tragic. Nothing is more sublime.” said Victor Hugo. Indeed, the beauty, history and culture of the City of Light have been numerously depicted by writers and filmmakers. This seminar will explore the representations of iconic neighborhoods of Paris such as *Montmartre*, *Notre-Dame*, *La Bastille*, *Le Marais* and *Saint-Germain-des-Prés*, and the Parisian *Banlieue* in literature, movies and in the media. Students will analyze and discuss the symbolic descriptions of the city in classic and contemporary novels, as well as in movies ranging from the *French New Wave* of the sixties to the *Parisian Banlieue* genre. This class will specifically examine how such portrayals of Paris can represent and misrepresent, create and reveal the identity of a city and its people so that students will gain a historical and cultural understanding of Paris.