More than a simple setting, but not a character per se, Paris is an integral part of the novels, poems, essays and films to be studied in this class. We will discuss why and how writers and film directors inscribed this particular city in the center of their work. What was their own emotional connection to the place? Was it a standard connection for the period or for the literary movements or groups (Modernism, Surrealism, OuLiPo, Nouvelle Vague, Beat generation,…) in which they took part? Did they hold a distinctive view of the city? To what extent is what they lived found in the text? What is altered? Are there any descriptions of Paris and if so, how are they handled? How do narrators and characters respond to their environment? Are syntax, typography or word choices influenced by the city?

Because the works on which we will focus are too easily divided into local (French) writers and foreign (American) ones, an important aim of this class will be to question the notion of belonging. We will see how some French writers tried to make themselves foreigners in the city in which they grew up, and how some American writers wrote about their perfect cultural integration. For both groups, we will tackle the importance of race, class, gender and sexual orientation in feeling accepted. We will also try to grasp how specific time periods or cultural contexts altered living experiences in Paris.

Grading:
Attendance, Participation, Preparation (15%)
Semi-weekly reading responses (NYU Home > Blackboard Site > Discussion Board > + Thread) (10%)
1 10 min oral presentation on a place described in a chapter, a poem, a movie scene (10%)
1 personal project: a series of poems, a narrative, a short play, a short movie about your own experience in Paris + and a 1-page essay on the process of writing (10%)
3 1-page textual analyses (outside of class) (15%)
1 final project: 8-page essay (20%)
1 final exam: 5 questions on literary history (literary movements, important dates, context) and a textual analysis on a 1-page text (20%)
Books to be purchased:

Excerpts or poems:

Films:
Tuesday, September 20th
Introduction.

Thursday, September 22nd

Tuesday, September 27th

Thursday, September 29th

Tuesday, October 4th

Thursday, October 6th
Textual Analysis # 1 due

Tuesday, October 11th

Thursday, October 13th

Tuesday, October 18th

Thursday, October 20th

Tuesday, October 25th
Guided Tour #1: _______________________
Personal project due

Thursday, October 27th
Tuesday, November 1st No class – Toussaint
Make up event: ____________________________

Thursday, November 3rd – to be rescheduled: ______________________

Textual Analysis # 2 due

Tuesday, November 8th

Thursday, November 10th

Tuesday, November 15th
Varda, Agnès. Cléo de 5 à 7 (1962).

Thursday, November 17th

Textual Analysis # 3 due

Tuesday, November 22nd

Thursday, November 24th
Place Saint Sulpice.
Final project outline and draft due.

Tuesday, November 29th

Thursday, December 1st

Tuesday, December 6th
Thursday, December 8th
Course conclusion
*Final project due*

Tuesday, December 13th
In class final exam

Thursday, December 15th
Guided Tour #2: _____________________