This class examines how the history of political ideology and social conflict in France since the Middle Ages has been embodied in the urban landscape of Paris. More than in any other city, the meaning, message, and significance to state and nation of most Parisian sites was -- and continues to be -- violently contested. We will look at the histories of the conception, construction, and public perception of Parisian monuments and place their stories within the larger context of the development of the French state and of French national identity. Major events of French history form the chronological backbone for this course, with emphasis placed on the forces that literally shaped some of the city’s most emblematic neighborhoods and monuments. The readings are selected from works by specialists in French political, urban, and social history; and the class will include weekly visits to sites in Paris, as the student learns to “read” architecture and to use the city as a rich primary source for historical analysis.

Be advised: while no prior knowledge of French history is required, a high level of commitment to learning about France is. All of the writing for this class demands careful consideration of both readings for class and information given during site visits. This is not a class for tourists, but a class that engages in the complex history of Paris and France. You will be evaluated on the richness and clarity of your engagement with that history.

COURSE MATERIALS:
Alistair Horne The Seven Ages of Paris.
Course reader
English-language booklets [Itinéraire readers] will be available for purchase in the library:
The Pantheon; The Arch of Triumph; The Palais Garnier; The Eiffel Tower.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
* Class Participation is required both in the classroom and on all of our group visits
Students are expected to have done all the readings and to participate both in class and to comment at the weekly site visits.

The visits are not optional, as they form the core of the class: instead of Powerpoint slides, you will learn to use the city as evidence. The meeting points for the walks are indicated below. The Class Participation component of your grade includes arriving on time and being prepared to do a lot of walking without grumbling, no matter what the weather. (Call the cell # if you are lost)

A day trip to Versailles on Friday, October 14 (count on returning to Paris by ca. 6 p.m.) replaces the class that would have been held on November 1. Please schedule your other travels with this in mind.

*Two Monument editorials -- 3 typed double-spaced pages – must make the connections between some aspect of 1) the lecture 2) the particular site visit, and 3) the pertinent readings,

Pick a theme -- zero in on a topic. Your paper should absolutely NOT be a dry summary of “then we did this, then we saw that.” Nor be called “paper #1:” invent a title!

Be creative. Comparison between Paris and other cities is welcome. Your work will be evaluated in terms of cohesiveness, logic, and originality. Start from those subjects in the syllabus, a line from one of the readings... see if you can use and make the connections between multiple sources: readings, visits, and your life.
Due the Monday after the site visit, submit at least one before the midterm. Those sent via e-mail will not be accepted. Nor are two on the day of the final.

* The Invalides “Scavenger Hunt” sends you out on your own (or with friends) to one of the most symbolic sites in Paris. A list of questions to consider will be distributed in class. Due October 24.

**One 7-10 page research paper on a “monument” you have chosen.**

This entails visiting and doing research on a site in Paris that bears on issues covered during the course. You will choose your topic in consultation with me and submit an outline and a list of sources by Week 5. The paper is due November 28 (Week 11).

Note: *proofreading of all your printed work is required!* I can stay after class should you need time to look over your print-out. Catch all the typos and grammatical errors you can and just write all over the typescript. Pristine printouts larded with *sloppy mistakes* automatically lose points i.e. the essay which repeatedly described “plagues” rather than “plaques.” Written work, no matter how incisive and original, that is filled with these kinds of mistakes is guaranteed not to receive an “A.” However, I would be glad to work with you on improving your writing style or overcoming difficulties with grammar. (A summary of frequent errors, easily fixed, will be distributed to the class).

**Midterm**
**Final**

SCHEDULE:

**Week 1 - Paris as Palimpsest**
**Sept 19 & 20**
Readings:
Horne: Skim through the Introduction and the first section of age Age One. Focus on Philippe Auguste as of “The Capital City” in the second chapter. Section three is to be read for fun, but not if you are feeling overwhelmed. For the second class, master Age Two through section 5 (“Worth a Mass”)
Map: “Paris ca. 1200”

Note: on Tues. Sept 20, class at NYU (classroom TBA) = Group 1 @12:30 + Group 2 @ 2:15

**Week 2 – In Spite of Paris: the Means and Ends of Louis XIV**
**Sept 26** Readings:
Horne, Age Two, Section 6 (“Regicide, Regent and Richelieu”) and Age Three, Sections 7, 8 and 9 [up to: “Another Regency.”].

**Sept 27 Site visit: Outside the Louvre; Representations of Power**
Meeting point:
GROUP 1: outside the Metro stop Louvre/Rivoli (Line #1)
GROUP 2: outside the Metro stop Palais Royal/Musée du Louvre (Metros: #1 or #7) Take the exit marked “Place du Palais Royal,” you will find yourself on a big noisy square facing the Louvre with a lot of rollerbladers practicing around you. If you’ve taken the #7 and come
outside from under a jeweled awning, you are in the wrong place! Head southeast and look for the Art Nouveau metro entrance.
Note: bring along the Louvre maps from the reader

Week 3 - Erase, Deface, Replace: Revolutionary Paris
Oct 3 Readings:
Horne, Age Three, finish Chapter 9
Statistics relating to the Terror.
Itineraire reader: The Pantheon

Oct 4 Site visit: The Panthéon
Meeting point: in front of the Pantheon. (RER B to ”Luxembourg” or the #10 to Cardinal Lemoine).

Week 4 - Glory and Stone: Napoleon I’s Paris
Oct 10 Readings:
Horne, all of Age Four.
Map of Napoleon I’s Paris projects; images of arches
Itineraire reader: The Arc of Triumph

Oct 11 Site visit: L’Arc de triomphe
Meeting point:
GROUP 1: on the corner (pair) of the Ave. des Champs Elysées, outside the Metro stop Charles de Gaulle/Etoile - facing the arch, you are on the right hand side of the avenue. First, we will be walking around the base, then walking up. (Metros: #1, 2, 6, and RER A)
GROUP 2: at the top of the Arch. Find the metro/RER exit clearly marked for the Arch, then take the underpass out to the monument. At a booth to your left as you are about to emerge from the tunnel, use your Accent card to get a free ticket and climb the 283 steps to the top. I will be waiting up there.

***FRIDAY Oct 14 Excursion: Versailles
Meeting point
At 11 a.m. by the Fontaine St. Michel. (Metro/RER: St-Michel-Notre-Dame).
This day trip (count on returning to Paris by ca. 6 p.m.) replaces the class that would have been scheduled for November 1. Please alter your travel plans accordingly.

Week 5 - 1815 to 1851: Legacies of/and Revolution(s)
Oct 17 Readings:
Horne, Age Five, chapter 13
Oct 18 Invalides Scavenger Hunt
Closest metro: “St.François-Xavier” on the #13 or “La Tour Maubourg” on the #8.

Week 6 - Impossible Things are Happening: Napoleon III, Haussmann, the Second Empire

Oct 24 Readings:
Horne, Age Five, chapter 14
Itineraire reader: The Palais Garnier

Oct 25 Site visit: Le Palais Garnier
Meeting point: On the front steps of the Opéra Garnier (Metro stops: Opera (#3, 7, or 8) or Chausee d’Antin/Lafayette (# 3 or #9).

Week 7
Oct 31: In-class MIDTERM

Nov 1: NO CLASS (replacement class was on Oct 14)

Week 8 - Blood and Iron: Constructing the Third Republic

Nov 7 Readings:
Horne, Age Five, chapters 14 and 15.

Nov 8 Site visit: Sacré-Coeur (with a view of the Eiffel Tower)
Meeting point: on the steps of Sacré-Coeur.
You can take the Metro #2, to the “Anvers” station. Then. Walk north from the Place d’Anvers up the rue de Steinkerque. When you reach the Place Suzanne Valadon – to the left of the carrousels -- take the funicular up to the church (Navigo or regular metro ticket works).

Week 9 - Built to Impress, But Not to Last: Traces of the Universal Expos

Nov 14 Readings:
Horne, Age Six, chapters 16 and 17

**Nov 15:** Site visit: *The Petit Palais and the grounds of the 1900 World’s Fair*

**Meeting point:**
- **Group 1:** at Place Clemenceau (Metro #1 or #13 to “Champs-Elysees-Clemenceau.” Easier to just get off the #9 at “Franklin Roosevelt” and walk one block south until you reach the statue of Charles de Gaulle.)
- **Group 2:** by the Torch at the Place d’Alma (Metro #9 to “Alma”…take the exit for Pont d’Alma.

**Week 10—Do Monuments Heal or Hurt? Avoiding Memory in the 20th century.**

**Nov 21** Readings:
- Horne, Age Six, chapter 18; Age Seven, chapter 19.

**Nov 22** Site visit: *Le Musée de l’art et de l’histoire du judaïsme*

**Meeting point:** In the courtyard of the museum at 71, rue du Temple (4ème). Closest metro: *Rambuteau* (#11)

**Week 11—The Identity Crisis of Postwar Paris: why do Les Halles still matter?**

**Nov 28** Readings:
- Horne, Age Seven, chapters 20 and 21
- Images of the destruction of Les Halles.

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

**Nov 29** Site visit: *Looking for Les Halles*

**Meeting point:**
- **Group 1** in front of The Centre Pompidou (4th arr.) Closest Metro: “Hotel de Ville” (Metro #1) or “Rambuteau” (#11)
- **Group 2** inside the church of St. Eustache Closest metros: “Etienne Marcel” (#4); or “Les Halles” using the exit for rue Rambuteau.

**Week 12—Presidential Designs: The Fad for “Très grands projets” since Mitterand**

**Dec 5** Readings:

Dec 6 Site visit: TBA
Meeting point: TBA

Week 13:
Dec 12: Review session/ discussion of papers
Dec 13: In-class FINAL at NYU (classroom TBA) = Group 1 @12:30 + Group 2 @ 2:15