NYU Paris Summer 2019
Course Title: French and Expatriate Literature

Instructor Information

- **Instructor**: Dr Claire de Obaldia
- **Office hours**: After class, by appointment
- **E-mail address**: Cd89@nyu.edu

Course Information

- **Course Title**: French and Expatriate Literature
- **Course Description**
This course explores the connections between major French and American expatriate writings of the Modernist period and beyond. As the site of unprecedented cosmopolitanism and creativity, early 20th-century Paris saw the emergence of artistic and intellectual movements that were to have a considerable impact on Western culture to this day. The texts we will be looking at (memoir, autobiography, novel, poem, and essay) reflect a shared sense of inner and outer exile inherent in the modern condition. They deal explicitly with the experience of living and writing on the margins, of belonging or not belonging, of otherness and estrangement in relation to class, gender, sexuality, language, and to Paris as a specific urban environment.

**Class meeting days and times**
29 May-6 July, Mon, Tues, Thurs 11:00-13:00 ; Fri 11-12:30 (No class on Wedn)
**Class room number**: tba

Course Overview and Goals

Course objectives:

- To explore the impact of a specific time, place, and culture on writing
- To familiarize students with a variety of modes and styles of writing around characteristically 20th-century themes and issues
- To learn to formulate relevant questions and hold multiple perspectives
- To develop and refine analytical skills through the practice of close reading and commentary, but also through a broadening of connections and perspectives
Course Requirements

Class Participation
Attendance, Preparation, and Participation includes abiding by NYU Attendance Policy, being up to date with the assigned reading, preparing each class in advance, and catching up in case of a missed class. It involves engaging in class discussions through direct participation and/or by submitting written responses to an excerpt or a question discussed in class. The student’s command of the material will be evaluated, together with the logic of his or her argument (distinguishing between personal feeling and intellectual grasp), as well as the contribution of his or her comments to the group’s continuing dialogue.

Classroom Etiquette:
• No cell phones in class please.
• Unless of an emergency, going to the bathroom during class time is considered rude in France.

Attendance and Tardiness
• Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade for every week’s worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
• Unexcused absences affect students’ grades: unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% deduction from the students’ final course grade.
• Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

Illness: For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor’s note, at the discretion of the Associate Director of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor’s note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor’s note.

Religious Observance: Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Associate Director, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

Please note: if you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly to notify them.
Written Assignments

Assignment 1
2-3 single-spaced pages prepared at home in a standard font, involving a response to a prompt, comparing and contrasting texts discussed in class, or the close reading of an excerpt or excerpts. To be submitted both online (Google Docs) and on paper at the beginning of (or before) class.

Assignment 2
2-3 single-spaced pages prepared at home in a standard font, involving a response to a prompt, comparing and contrasting texts discussed in class, or the close reading of an excerpt or excerpts. To be submitted both online (Google Docs) and on paper at the beginning of (or before) class.

Assignment 3
2-3 single-spaced pages prepared at home in a standard font, involving a response to a prompt, comparing and contrasting texts discussed in class, or the close reading of an excerpt or excerpts. To be submitted both online (Google Docs) and on paper at the beginning of (or before) class.

Final Assignment
4-6 single-spaced pages prepared at home (to be submitted both online (Google Docs) and on paper at the beginning of (or before) class + in-class assignment (no required length).

Tests
Short in-class assignments involving a summary, an outline, an introduction, making up a prompt, etc., and which count towards the Preparation and Participation grade.

Revisions and extra credit
The first paper will be graded for feedback and can therefore be revised, either partially (e.g. introduction, conclusion, transitions, etc.) or completely. The deadline for this revision is the due date of the following paper, and only the grade of the revised paper counts (unless the paper has not been revised, in which case the feedback grade becomes the final grade).

Students can also choose to write another paper to improve their preparation and participation grade, and submit it in the last week of the semester at the latest. The prompt must be chosen from the texts read for this course and should not repeat material already discussed in other papers. It is subject to the instructor’s approval.
Late submission of work: Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency. Any written work turned in after due dates will count only as a contribution to the “Class participation” grade.

Internet material: Students using critical material not included in the Reader will be expected to provide exact references (in footnotes, endnotes, or brackets), and any internet material (background information, reviews, article) must be printed out and turned in with the paper.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

Plagiarism: presenting others’ work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one’s own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:

- a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks
- an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another’s work
- the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one’s own
- submitting evaluations of group members’ work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member
- altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.

For further information, students are encouraged to check www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

All NYUP students have the responsibility to uphold these stated objectives. As a member of this community, you accept the responsibility for upholding and maintaining these standards, which include refraining from all forms of plagiarism and cheating as detailed below. Cases of plagiarism at NYUParis will be brought to the attention of NYUParis academic administration as well as the implicated student’s home school Dean.
Grading of Assignments
The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments/Activities</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation and class participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home papers = 15% each</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short in-class assignments</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final take-home paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(including final in-class assignment =5%)</td>
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Letter Grades
Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>16-20</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Above Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Below Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Low Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Low Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Criteria
A range: applies to work that is very well argued and structured; that gives evidence both of close reading and of extensive knowledge; that shows imaginative flair and originality.
**B range:** Applies to work which demonstrates an ability to conceptualize the key issues and debates and to formulate relevant points or questions, but which may need to be more thorough, better structured, and/or show more independent thinking and originality.

**C range:** Applies to work which, though it may raise a couple of interesting points or questions, remains too superficial, or undeveloped, or poorly structured, and/or shows insufficient grasp of the subject or material.

**D range:** Presents incorrect or confused information, misunderstandings of the subject or text, lack of coherence, lack of editing and structure or absence of development, an inability to make proper use of references and quotations, serious inadequacies of expression (syntax, grammar, vocabulary).

**F grade:** For non- or late submission of work without a valid medical excuse, or for work which is unintelligible, illegible, or wholly irrelevant; for plagiarism or work which uses unattributed material.

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### Course Materials

**Required Textbooks & Materials**


**Fitzgerald,** Francis Scott Fitzgerald, “One Trip Abroad”, and “Babylon revisited”


**Stein,** Gertrude, *Paris France* (1940/Peter Owen Publishers, 2012), excerpts, + **Gopnick,** Adam, *Introduction to Gertrude Stein’s Paris France*


**Colette,** “If I Had a Daughter »” (pp. 56-58); “The Hand” (pp. 246-48).


**White,** Edmund, Chapter One of *The Flâneur: A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris* (Bloomsbury, 2001)

**Morozov,** Evgeny, *The Death of the Cyberflâneur* (NYTimes, Sunday Review, Feb 4 2012)

**Camus,** Albert, *The Outsider,* transl. Sandra Smith (1942/Penguin Classics 2013)[Eyrolles]

Optional Textbooks & Materials


Beauvoir, Simone de, « Childhood » in: *The Second Sex/Le Deuxième sexe* (1949)


Centre Pompidou Document on CUBISM

Centre Pompidou Document on SURREALISM


Young, Iris Marion, “City Life as a Normative Ideal” (1990) in: Sharon Meagher (ed), *Philosophy and the City: Classic to Contemporary Writings* (State University of New York Press, 2008)

Further Suggested Reading (some of which is available in my Reserve at the library)


Breton, André, *Manifestoes of Surrealism*, transl. Seaver & Lane (Ann Arbor, 1972)


Deutsch, Lorant, *Metronome, A History of Paris from the Underground* (St Martin’s Griffin, 2010)/*Métronomé*


Kristeva, Julia, *Strangers to Ourselves* (Columbia University Press, 1994)/ *Etrangers à nous-mêmes*


Perec, Georges, *An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris*, transl. Mark Lowenthal (Wakefield Press 2010)/ *Tentative d'épuisement d'un lieu parisien*


Robinson, Marc (Ed), *Altogether Elsewhere: Writers in Exile* (Faber and Faber, 1994)


Saïd, Edward, *Out of Place: A Memoir* (Granta, 2000)


Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

Course Schedule

### Topics and Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Week 1, insert date]</td>
<td>[Insert topic]</td>
<td>[Insert reading]</td>
<td>[Insert assignment]</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Week 2, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Week 3, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Week 4, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Week 5, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Week 6, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Week 7, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Week 8, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Week 9, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Insert assignment]</td>
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<td>[Week 10, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Week 11, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Week 12, insert date]</td>
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<td>[Insert reading]</td>
<td>[Insert assignment]</td>
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<td>[Week 13, insert date]</td>
<td>[Insert topic]</td>
<td>[Insert reading]</td>
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<td>[Week 14, insert date]</td>
<td>[Insert topic]</td>
<td>[Insert reading]</td>
<td>[Insert assignment]</td>
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<tr>
<td>[Week 15, insert date]</td>
<td>[Insert topic]</td>
<td>[Insert reading]</td>
<td>[Insert assignment]</td>
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Instructor Bio

With 2 degrees in German and Hispanic studies from the Sorbonne (Paris IV), and a Masters and Doctorate in Comparative Literature from Oxford (English, French, German, Spanish), Claire de Obaldia has taught comparative literature at Oxford, Geneva, the Sorbonne, and different American universities in Paris and London since the 1990s. In 2000 she also became a certified teacher of the FM Alexander Technique (somatic education), combining her academic activity with that of teaching Alexander’s work both privately and on teacher training courses in Paris and London.