Le Grand Pari(s) or Wagers on Greater Paris, Present and Future

Class code
ARTH-UA 9850-001

Instructor Details
Professor Barbara Shapiro Comte

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Office location: Room 4.09
Office hours: Thursdays, 14h30-15h30 or by appointment

Class Details
Spring 2016
Le Grand Pari(s) or Wagers on Greater Paris, Present and Future

Thursdays, 11h00-14h00 (unless otherwise indicated), including field trips under all weather conditions

NYU Paris: Room 4.11 TBC
For fieldwork schedule, see Syllabus (below) & consult Site Visits handout for meeting points.
Punctuality is essential. Site visits begin at the appointed hour. Two late arrivals = 1 absence.

Prerequisites
Serious commitment to study Paris, contemporary and future, not as a casual tourist but as an engaged global citizen and dedicated student, through interactive class sessions and on-site investigations under all weather conditions.
Participation in class and encounters with specialist guest speakers, assiduous study of assigned readings and multi-media sources.
Punctuality and physical stamina on fieldwork excursions, requiring creative photo-documentation and written observation skills.

Class Description
Paris by the Seine stars in more Hollywood films than any other city. London on the Thames takes close runner-up position. But more than mythic, popular-culture stage sets, these two major European capitals operate as spectacular rival models in face of real-life, 21st-century dramas. Our course concentrates on Paris through a sequence of case studies, site visits, and thematic debates crucial to its identity, survival and future—tradition contra innovation, continuity contra rupture, preservation contra demolition, obsolescence contra revitalization, human dimensions versus the megacity, the "green" city versus its asphyxiation, the "smart city" and its discontentment. We investigate controversies over the low- and high-density city, legislation on heights, protection of skyline and riverbanks, the interface between traditional and experimental building types, the balance between public and private space, residential and mixed-economy neighbourhoods, inner-city rehabilitation, gentrification, and suburban sprawl, allied to intra- and extra-muros transportation (road, rail, river). As a foil to Paris, we conclude with a comparative analysis of contemporary London to illuminate fundamental differences between these great global cities: the rational French model largely tempered by state controls against the exuberant English model predominantly driven by ultra-liberal policies.
Will the third millennium ideal city emerge as a polymorphic combination of the two approaches?

Structure
Fifteen sessions including in-house, interactive, illustrated lectures, participatory seminars, guest-speaker forums, videos, films, and U-Tubes, alternating with on-site investigations, boat excursion along the Seine, and group and/or independent museum visits (Crypte Archéologique du Parvis Notre-Dame, Musée Carnavalet, Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine, and Pavillon de l’Arsenal).

Conducted in English.
Learning to “read,” “deconstruct” and record Paris through urban and architectural terminology and use tools to investigate, describe, and quantify/qualify its buildings, streets, urban fabric and human “pattern language.”

Enduring passion for Paris, your home away from home, and a commitment to the city, depository of deep history and scene of contemporary life, a living case study for our comparative understanding of London and, by extension, other world settlements.

Developing independent commitment to engage in whatever city you settle, as a responsible citizen of the global world.

Evaluation & Grading (For detailed information on assignments & dates, see Syllabus, below.)

Active participation in class, discussions on readings, guest interventions & site visits  
10%

1 quarter-term take-home assignment (Sessions 1-5 inclusive), 4 text pp + photo supplement  
25%

1 midterm take-home exam (Sessions 6-8 inclusive) based on class themes & site visits  
25%

1 final in-house exam (Sessions 9-14) based on PowerPoint images & major themes  
25%

Ongoing photo-documentary diary on Paris human-scale spaces and “junkspace”  
15%

Assignments & grading are based on attendance and participation in all lectures and site visits.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent work

Grade B: Very good work

Grade C: Satisfactory work

Grade D: Passable work

Grade F: Failure to attain a passable level of work

Grade conversion

A = 16  Félicitations/Congratulations
A- = 15  Excellent
B+ = 14  Très bien/Very good
B = 13  Bien/Good
B- = 12  Encourageant/Assez bien/Encouraging work/Quite good
C+ = 11  Moyen plus/Above average
C = 10  Moyen/Average
C- = 9  Passable/Passing grade
D+ = 8
D = 7
D- = 6

Grading Policy

NYU Paris aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.
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 affect students’ semester grades. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

As per the Global Academic standard, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade¹.

Other guidelines specific to NYUParis include:

- **Attendance to class and all course-related events, even outside of regularly scheduled course times, is expected and mandatory. Some class outings/make-up classes take place on Fridays**

- **Under no circumstances will non-University-related travel constitute an excused absence from class.** DO NOT book travel until you have received and carefully studied the syllabus of each of your classes.

- **If you are not sick enough to go to the doctor, you are well enough to go to class.** Doctor’s notes will be expected for all medical-related absences.

- **No tests, quizzes, or exams will be made up.** A missed test, quiz, or exam will result in a zero. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Academic Affairs team, not your professor.

New York University in Paris, as an academic community, is committed to free and open inquiry, to creating an intellectual and social environment that promotes this, and to upholding the highest standards of personal and academic integrity.

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.

**PLAGIARISM:** a form of fraud, presenting someone else’s work as though it were your own²

- A sequence of words from another writer who you have not quoted and referenced in footnotes³
- A paraphrased passage from another writer’s work that you have not cited.
- Facts or ideas gathered and reported by someone else⁴
- Another student’s work that you claim as your own
- A paper that is purchased or “researched” for money
- A paper that is downloaded free of charge from the Internet

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¹ NYU’s “Policies and procedures for students studying away at a Global Academic Center”
² NYU’s Expository Writing Department’s [Statement on Plagiarism](https://www nya.edu/expository-writing/)
³ NYU’s Statement on Plagiarism
⁴ NYU’s Statement on Plagiarism
CHEATING
- Copying from another student’s exam or quiz
- Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance (crib sheets, internet, etc.) during an exam or quiz
- Having someone take your exam
- Accessing an exam or quiz in an unauthorized fashion prior to its administration
- Collaborating with other students or unauthorized persons on a take home exam
- Using the same written material for two courses without the express permission of both instructors
- Fabricating or falsifying data

Assigned weekly readings (rf syllabus, below) are made available in three separate forms, as follows:
- Class Reader (vols. 1 and 2)—Code R1, R2—to be purchased at Mistral Photo, 40 rue St Jacques, 5°.
- Electronic readings—Code PDF—will be emailed to students well in advance of assignment dates. They should be photocopied for study purposes and class consultation.
- Handouts and/or website addresses—Code P—for students to consult & print-out independently.

Students are responsible for reading assigned weekly texts before each scheduled class and responding actively to related discussions in class and on-site fieldwork. Readings and personal notes should be brought to the appropriate class for consultation.

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-P Library)
- Norma Evenson, Paris: A Century of Change, 1878-1978 (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1979). Essential chapters are assigned as key readings throughout the semester. Consult NYU/P open shelf and/or Reserve copies in either original paperback bound version (2 copies available) or multiple photocopies of selected chapters.
- NYUParis Reserve:

- Suggested website consultation for current Paris urban & architecture events, including walking tours:
  Pavillon de l'Arsenal, Les Promenades Urbaines—
  http://www/promenades-urbaines.com

Internet Research Guidelines
To be distributed with quarter-term, midterm and final paper assignments.

Additional Required Equipment
Sketchbook/notebook, pen/pencil, camera and/or telephone with camera & video capacity.
Session 1: Class-Illustrated lecture
Synoptic overview of Paris by the Seine: consideration of its expanding physiognomy inra-muros, social and political history, architecture and urban evolution over 2000 years.
Exploration of thematic approaches to “Le Grand Pari(s)” qualities of city life, demographics, social, economic, cultural, & ethnic diversity, architecture, urban design, & preservation, housing, public transportation, and air.

● Required readings
- PDF Denis Cosgrove, “Cartocity”: Cosgrove_CartoCity_2006, 1-10.

Session 2: Case Study N°1: Roman Lutetia, prehistoric & Judeo-Christian cult sites, medieval harbor & markets
Tracking by foot the centrifugal centre of prehistoric to medieval Paris, from Roman baths on the Left Bank, archeological remains of early human settlements, cult-sites, and medieval dwellings on the Ile-de-la-Cité, to medieval city hall, urban square (place), main harbor and central market site on the Right Bank.

● Required readings

Session 3: Case Study N°2: Rooftop Views of Paris: Centre Pompidou & Arc de Triomphe Etoile
“Changement dans la continuité”: a Parisian contradiction and condition of its unique character. Reconciliations between tradition & innovation, continuity & rupture in central Paris, from impoverished medieval neighbourhoods for working-class single tenants and crowded families to modern, uniform bourgeois family apartment blocks conforming to standardized designs decreed by Prefect Haussmann under Napoleon III.

● Required readings

Session 4: Class-Illustrated lecture
Accommodating the past into the living city after German Occupation of Paris, 1940-1944.
La Loi Malraux: classifying and preserving historic monuments, heritage sites, and ensembles

● Required readings

Session 5: Case Study N°3: “Paris, Banks of the Seine”
Examining the liquid history of the Seine: “UNESCO World Heritage Site.” Batobus return excursion along the Seine: disembarkment at Les Invalides, test viewing angles.

● Required readings
Session 6: Class-Illustrated lecture

Preserving low-scale, low-density neighbourhoods, human scale, and urban mix.

Citizen action for a livable city in the spirit of Jane Jacobs and Jan Gehl: planning around the daily baguette.

● Required readings

ders of Diversity,” and “Erosion of Cities or Attrition of Automobiles,” The Death and Life of Great

● R2 Jan Gehl, “The Human Dimension: Senses and Scale” Cities for People. The Neglected Dimension (Washington,

● R2 Mary Gallagher, ed., “Paris Without Skyscrapers. The Battle to Save the Skyline of the World’s Most
Beautiful City,” excerpts (with editor’s permission), in collaboration with S.O.S., Paris, on-going project.

● Assigned home website U-Tube consultations

Jane Jacobs interview based on The Economy of Cities (1970) and The Death and Life of Great American Cities,
*1961): 12 min.: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9833
Jane Jacobs, Urban Design of Toronto and Montreal c. 1969, 12 min.: *http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9833TPWSCY
“Parting Words: Jane Jacobs (Dark Age Ahead, 2004), Allan Greg interview, 20 min.: *http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8v3j8ebhRM
Jan Gehl, *Clips, “Contested Streets” and “Cities for People,” *http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMgEsUbMHSQ

Session 7: Class-Illustrated lecture

Guest speaker: Rémi Rouyer, Architect & Associate Professor, ENSBA (École nationale supérieure
d’architecture de Paris-Malaquais
Future transportation & infrastructures: revitalization, dispersal and/or decline of Paris?

● Required readings on Towers

open shelf & Reserve), 139-198, notably charts on building heights/widths, 151, 178.

● Le Corbusier, The Radiant City [1935], trans. from original French (London: Faber, 1967), excerpts to be
distributed in class.

● CIAM’s “La Charte d’Athènes” (1933), trans. A. Eardley (New York: Grossmann, 1973), excerpts to be
distributed in class.

● Required readings on Transportation

NYU/P open shelf & Reserve).

● R2 Michèle Breuillard, “From Paris to Greater Paris: An Old Project, A New Approach,” Croatian and
Comparative Public Administration (HKJV-CCPA, September 2012), 41-69.

Session 8: Case Study N° 4: La Défense, extra-muros, west of Paris

Investigation of the prototype high-density tower zone above underground rapid transit

● Required readings

and 327-61. Consult NYU/P (open shelf and Reserve)

● R2 Ingrid Taillandier and Olivier Namias, “The Invention of the European Tower,” “Acclimatization of a Model,
1893-1945,” “Europeanizing an American Typology” (including “The No.1 Skyscraper, Beaugrenelle/Front de
Seine, La Défense, Montparnasse, Crimée-Curial”), and “Epilogue: Paris, Capital of Vertical Town Planning,” The


● PDF Deyan Sudjic, “High-Rise Syndrome” and “An Incurable Condition,” The Edifice Complex. How the Rich and
Session 9: Class-Illustrated Lecture
Rehabilitation & Gentrification: how & for whom? Transformation of inner-city, working-class neighbourhoods (in the Marais, along Canal St Martin, on the Belleville hills): investigating social & cultural mix, free-market & social housing, safeguarding local amenities, schools, family-run shops, indigenous workshops, artisans (cobblers, greengrocers, bakers), and weekly outdoor markets versus global brands and supermarket chains.

Required readings


Session 10: Case Study N° 5: Canal St Martin (ARR. 10/11) & Belleville (ARR. 20)
Gentrification: inevitability in some neighbourhoods, a resistance in others.

Explorations on-site reasons: urban physiology, transport, indigenous ethnic mix, schools, amenities

Required readings


Session 11: Case Study N° 6: The Marais (ARR. 4)
Between sumptuous rehabilitation of 17th-century hotels particuliers, social housing subsidies, and pressure of global markets: delicate accommodations for Paris heritage, indigenous inhabitants, tourists, & city economy.

Required readings, NYUP Library Reserve consultation, & handouts on the Loi Malraux

- NYUP Res. Musée Carnavalet catalogue on Le Marais: maps, documentary photos, and drawings (tbc)

Session 12: Class-Illustrated lecture
Le Grand Pari(s): high-risk planning & implementation of the future megacity.

Who & what controls the city? The “Intelligent” or “Smart City” contra the “Democratic City”? Effects of computer technology on urban & human scale & the theory and application of architectural and urban principles. Questions on human scale and scaleless spaces, greening the city, regulating climate and pollution.

Required readings


Session 13: Case Studies N° 7, researched, coordinated and led by students
“COP21”: Paris Climate 2015 conference: Presentation of goals & results of the international conference Research on global models (eg. San Francisco recycling methods, etc.)

Greening Paris: exploring examples of replanting/seedling walls, gardens (public and private), trees, water bodies

Reconceiving/recycling unused railway tracks, empty buildings, empty lots, rooftops

Feeding Paris: via outdoor fresh-produce neighbourhood markets, redistribution & recycling edible waste

Management and redistribution of supermarket foodstuffs and restaurant excess: “Waste not Want not?”

Pollution control: cycling paths, Velib, controlling carbon emissions, traffic control, alternative transportation.

Required readings (to be amplified by students)

SPRING BREAK: Saturday, 16 April through Sunday, 1 May

Spring Break *Photo Assignment*
Six (minimum) captioned documentary shots of examples of “junkspace” and “global modernisms” inspired by assigned readings, investigating Paris, and (optional) travel to other (European) cities over Spring Break. Reference to & quotes from Sessions 6-10, 12 & 14 (including U-tubes) will greatly enhance your work.

During our last Session 15 (Monday, May 15, see below), *students will informally present their work.*

ASCENSION DAY HOLIDAY: Thursday, MAY 5

Session 14: Class-Illustrated lecture
Guest speaker: James Pallister, London-based architectural historian, author, and journalist
The London Experiment within a quasi-deregulated environment.
Present conditions and future scope for the global city.
The City & its towers: form follows function, fantasy and/or finance?
The Banks of the Thames: for whom?
Le Grand Paris contra Greater London: concluding images on contrasting global city models

● Required NYUParis library readings

● Recommended NYU/P library reserve consultation

Session 15
Monday, May 1
In-house exam, 1.5h

+ *Photos* informally presented

NYUParis EXAM WEEK

● Written exam (1.5 hours) based on comparing & contrasting 5 pairs of PowerPoint images, covering Sessions 9-15, inclusive.

● Photo presentations (10-15m): Students are free to choose their own mode of class presentations that may or not be the same as the captioned photo work to be submitted for grading (Options: PowerPoint projection, black-and-white or colour photographic prints, videos, sound tapes, and/or a combination).
Classroom Etiquette

No eating in class.
No cell phones in class.
No laptop computers in class unless permission is expressly given by your professors.
Leaving class (before the break) to go to the bathroom or yawning in class is considered rude in France.
During our 3-hour in-class, there is one 10-minute break.

Field Study Etiquette

Students are responsible for arriving promptly to all scheduled on-site visits (refer to separate handout on meeting points & metro connections).
For on-site investigations and field study research, cameras and cell phones with video & photo capacity are essential documentary tools, along with note pads and pencils.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Walk non-stop through Paris and its periphery as many days as possible, carrying a notebook, sketchbook, camera, and phone with video capacity.

Your Instructor

Barbara Shapiro Comte, dual Canadian and French citizen
B.A. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, double major in English & North American Literature/Studio & History of Art
B.Arch. School of Architecture, University of British Columbia
M.A., Ph.D. Harvard University, Department of History of Art and Architecture

Concentrations

Paris architecture and urban planning, 1660s-2000s; French architectural drawings, 17th-19th century to the computer age.
French art & society, 1630s-1870s; French Modern Art & society to World War II (Realism to Surrealism)

Manuscripts in progress

• “The Villa Chinubhai: Temple of the Family Disavowed. A Case Study in Ahmedabad, India within Le Corbusier’s Fifties House and Painting Series”

Publications include:


Translations include: