

LIST OF CUPA IN-HOUSE COURSES FOR FALL 2024

Major Movements in 19th Century French Painting

Beginning with Neoclassicism and covering the movements of Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism and Symbolism, this course follows major movements in French painting of the 19th century as they relate to the expression of the individual and to artistic institutions and conventions. Study of the socio-political context and its influence on the artists, and emphasis on analysis of style, technique, color, and light. Half of the course is held on site at museums (Musée du Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, Musée Gustave Moreau and Musée de l'Orangerie).

Diversity in Paris: From Communities to Communitarianism? (19th-21st Centuries)

A study of the history of immigration in Paris, and its reflections in the contemporary city. The course is split between in-class discussion and field trips to neighborhoods rich in their relationship to immigration, with a special focus on immigrants from the Maghreb and Sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to understand the presence and experience of immigrant and migrant populations in Paris, how these diverse communities situate themselves in the city, and how they assimilate and make Parisian culture evolve. Understanding these relationships helps put into perspective French contemporary debates on issues such as illegal immigration and secularism.

Professor Taraud

Writing the Self: Exploring Literature Through the Concept of Intimacy

This course aims to explore literature through the theme of intimacy, both from a literary point of view and a transdisciplinary perspective, while honing the linguistic skills required for literary analysis. It is divided into three distinct – yet interrelated – textual experiences: that of the heart, the body and the mind. Students discover texts that are committed to, and impacted by, the social body. This perspective juxtaposes private and collective spaces, underscoring the political dimension of fiction. By combining elements of literary history and grammatical and lexical references, the course allows students to improve their language skills while encouraging critical thinking about literature.

« The Instability of (the Notion of) Nature » : Humans and the Natural World

In Greek mythology, Prometheus stole the sacred fire to allow mankind to modify Nature through technics. Ever since, Western philosophy has attempted to define the position of humans in the natural world, “between the beasts and the gods,” to quote Jean-Pierre Vernant, and to reflect on the ethics of an ecological science. What do we mean when we talk about « nature »? Is « nature » truly natural, or just another human construct? How do we distinguish humans from non-human animals, and why do we claim to be superior to them? And what if we got it all wrong? Ultimately, how does the new climatic regime force us to question our assumptions about the environment, and to rethink our relationship to a so-called « nature »? This course will survey five centuries of ecological philosophy, tracing the roots of the epistemological models that inform our understanding of the natural world and of our own humanity, from Descartes and Montaigne to the current debates revolving around ecocriticism, the Anthropocene, and « the instability (of the notion of) nature » (Latour) in today's epistemology.

Gender and the Media

This course is an introduction to media representations of gender and sexuality, as seen through popular culture productions (TV series, video games, movies, Twitch and YouTube channels, TikTok, etc.) Students analyze the activity of different audiences on social networks and try to understand how representations of gender and sexual identities are constructed. Emphasis is placed on French and, more broadly, Francophone contexts, including examples from French-speaking African countries in order to question diasporic circulation and cultural transfers. The course also offers elements of comparison and analyzes circulations between France and the United States. Gender and sexual identity issues are studied through the following 4 axes: construction of gender stereotypes; gender, identification and gaze; gender identities and use of media; controversies, and media discourses and marketing strategies, in particular those surrounding queerbaiting and diversity policies.

Introduction to French phonology and socio-phonetics

Phonetics is often the most neglected component of foreign language learning. In order to remedy this shortcoming, this course aims to provide theoretical, practical, and socio-cultural knowledge of French phonetics, in order for students to refine their mastery of the French language. To this end, they will explore rhythmic and phonemic specificities and practice phonetic transcription to hone their listening skills. More practical aspects of phonetic remediation will also be offered, combining traditional articulatory phonetics and the more contemporary verbo-tonal methods. Lastly, socio-cultural aspects play a central role in this course which covers notions such as the historical evolution of the French language, the concept of *glottophobie*, the diversity of regional accents and the French-speaking world, and class and community markers. Numerous audio and video documents from various periods and origins will support class sessions, complemented by reference texts and practical exercises.