Cities of Dreadful Delight: Gender, Sexuality, and Urban life in fin-de-siècle London & Paris
MWF 12:00-12:50

This course uses two European capitals as sites to examine the interplay of gender studies, urban history, and the history of sexuality. The course will first map out the basic outlines of London and Paris before introducing more thematic issues that tie the two major centres together such as: sexuality, mass culture, urban planning, and gender. Students will read a wide range of contemporary scholarship and engage with primary sources. No theoretical or historical prerequisites are required. The course should appeal to anyone with an interest in European cultural and social history, urban life, or gender history.

The evaluation will be based on:

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<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Historiography/Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Conference Report</td>
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Course Policies:

*Extensions*: Extensions for the essays will be granted up to a maximum of one week only if obtained well in advance of the due date and for a legitimate reason. (Documented Medical reasons excepted)

*Late Penalties*: Assignments that are submitted after the due date will lose 5% per day for each day the assignment is late including weekends, unless an extension has been granted. After one week, a grade of zero will be assigned.

Assignments should be handed in to me in class. If they are late, email a copy to me and that will be the recorded date of submission—then bring a hard copy to the next class. Print out a copy of your email for proof of date in case of problems.

*Plagiarism*:

*Readings*:

Students are also required to read Judith Walkowitz’s *City of Dreadful Delight* and Vanessa Shwartz’s *Spectacular realities*
Introduction
August 22
No readings
August 24

Week 2: Understanding Urban History
August 27
Foucault, Michel. “Space, Knowledge and Power.” In Foucault Live: collected Interviews, 1961-1984. 335-347

W August 29

F August 31

Week 3: Representing the City
September 3 No Class (Labour day)

September 5

September 7

Week 4: Order and Disorder in the Urban Plan
M September 10—class cancelled
W September 12
F September 14
** Historiography Due**

Week 5: Experiencing the City
Luckin, Bill. “‘The Heart and Home of Horror’: The Great London Fogs of the Late Nineteenth Century.” Social History 2003 28(1): 31-48
M September 17
Week 6: Walking the City streets

Week 7: Shopping for Pleasure
Selections from Le Bonheur des Dames

Week 8: (Homo-)Sex in the City

Week 9: Modern Babylons
Guy de Maupassant, “A Parisian Affair” and “Laid to Rest.”
Read “Maiden tribute” articles from City of Dreadful Delight
Examine Artistic Representations on Website

Week 10: Writing Urban History—A Case Study I
F Oct 26

**Week 11: Writing Urban History—A Case Study II**

M Oct 29  
W Oct 31  
F November 2

**Week 12: Working Class Life**
M November 5  
W November 7  
F November 9

**Week 13: Constructing the National Body in the City/violence?**
M November 12  
W November 14  
F November 16

**Week 14: Empire in the City**
Antoinette Burton, “London through Imperial Eyes”  
M November 19  
**Research Essays due**

November 21-23 Thanksgiving

**Week 15: Urban History Conference—“Fin-de-siècle cities: London and Paris in Perspective”**
M November 26  
W November 28  
F November 30

M December 3  
Wed December 5 last day  
**Conference Report Due**

Exams December 7-13
Assignments

Conference Presentation
students will present 10 minute papers based on their research paper in a 3 day in class conference, “Fin-de-siècle cities: London and Paris in Perspective”

Seminar Participation (30% + 15% Presentation)
Students are expected to both attend all classes and contribute actively. This entails a thorough reading of all texts assigned, and the ability to bring that information into the classroom.

Short Paper (25%)
Each student will be assigned one person/institution/cultural artifact (ie. Moulin Rouge, “Skittles,” Maurice). Your job is to define your subject, put it within its appropriate context, and explain its significance to this course. While the terms might not be immediately familiar or have come up in the course yet, they are all relevant to the themes we are discussing and easy to find through a variety of sources. You are required to use at least one primary and one secondary source to fully explore your topic.

Choose the primary source that makes the most sense for your topic. The purpose of this assignment is to begin placing specific people and events within their larger context, and seeing how the larger themes of this course relate to everyday lived experiences.

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, include page numbers, and be approximately five pages. Use either endnotes or footnotes and ensure you employ the correct format. Be sure to include a bibliography also in the proper format (Chicago Style).

Essay (30%)
For your major assignment, you will need to begin by reading either
These are works of fiction, and are therefore not necessarily direct representations of everyday lived experience. However, they are both works focussing on the city and written within specific contexts reflecting values and customs of the time. (Students may choose their own novel if given approval by the instructor well in advance.)

Your assignment is to read the novel critically and discover what the text tells you about gender, sexuality, or urban life in European society at the turn of the century. To do so you should reflect on the main themes of the book and choose one of them to be your focus. I encourage you to be as creative as possible, and do not restrict yourself to only the major themes of the text. Your essay should use the novel as your primary source and should be supplemented by appropriate secondary sources (minimum of six).

The essay you produce should be analytic in style, meaning it should have a thesis that is supported by your evidence. Rather than providing a summary of the plot, you should focus on the characters and events as vehicles for social commentary. Remember—you need to approach the text as a historian, and not a literary critic. Ask yourself what the author has highlighted in his overview of society, and what he has left out. What characters are you supposed to sympathise with? Are there real heroes or villains? What audience would the novel most resonate with? Who was the readership
of the novel; was it applauded or condemned? Asking such questions will help lead you to your research path and refine your inquiries.

Style and grammar are important to the extent that they help construct your argument. Too many mistakes will impede your thought process and disguise good ideas. Most importantly, you need to construct clear sentences and paragraphs, and the essay as a whole must have a certain flow and rhythm. You want to ensure that your reader can follow your essay easily without question or confusion.

The paper is to be approximately twelve pages, with correctly formatted citations and bibliography.

Maupassant's second novel, Bel-Ami (1885) is the story of a ruthlessly ambitious young man (Georges Duroy, christened "Bel-Ami" by his female admirers) making it to the top in fin-de-siècle Paris. It is a novel about money, sex, and power, set against the background of the politics of the French colonization of North Africa. It explores the dynamics of an urban society uncomfortably close to our own and is a devastating satire of the sleaziness of contemporary journalism. Bel-Ami enjoys the status of an authentic record of the apotheosis of bourgeois capitalism under the Third Republic. But the creative tension between its analysis of modern behavior and its identifiably late nineteenth-century fabric is one of the reasons why Bel-Ami remains one of the finest French novels of its time, as well as being recognized as Maupassant’s greatest achievement as a novelist. This new translation is complemented by fullest introduction and notes of any edition currently available.

PQ 2349 .B313 2001 ROBA

Personal Author:
Maupassant, Guy de, 1850-1893.

Uniform title:
[Bel-Ami. English]

Title:
Bel-Ami / Guy de Maupassant ; Translated by Margaret Mauldon ; with an introduction and notes by Robert Lethbridge.

Publication info:

Villiers de L’Isle-Adam, Auguste, comte de, 1838-1889. He was an important writer of the fin de siècle sensibility. An idealist, a dandy and an aristocrat, he wrote novels, short stories and plays which satirized the customs and materialism of the ruling bourgeois class, and presented his fervent idealism about love and spirituality. His short stories are sometimes set in Paris (Contes cruels, 1883, 1888) among the jaded aristocrats. His most important novel L’Ève future (1886) anticipates modernist themes as the inventor Edison creates an artificial woman who incarnates the feminine ideal.

Zola--Paris (1897) offers the story of Pierre Froment the ex-priest now married, whose brother has become an anarchist with the plan to destroy the bourgeois society with explosives he has invented. It is therefore a novel of anarchy in the city, and a resounding faith in science and progress. It also deals with the counter current, the resurgence of idealism and religiosity in the fin de siècle spirit.

Claudine in Paris, Colette
PQ2605 .O28 C533