

## **S392/490 Photography in Paris: Exploration of Place**

**Summer 2004** Prof. Jeffrey Wolin

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June 10-July 23, 2004 Monday-Thursday 2-5 p.m.

Paris is one of the most beautiful and historic cities on earth. Filled with architectural gems from the time of Roman occupation to today, its museums are among the finest in the world. It has a long and rich tradition of photography since Louis Daguerre introduced the first photographic process in 1839. From the earliest days of photography, many of the most important photographers in the medium's history have lived in or done significant work about the City of Light including Marville, Atget, Kertesz, Man Ray, Cartier-Bresson and Brassai.

There will be many field trips to explore the city's wealth of architecture, gardens, museums, markets, etc. The renowned Paris photography school, Spéos, will make its digital labs available to the students in this class. Each participant will make a handmade book of his/her photographs of Paris accompanied by text.

This is a 3 credit class. In addition students will take a 3 credit art history class, History of Modern Art. Students will have the opportunity to view original works by the modern masters at the many museums in Paris.

### ***Overview of Course Objectives:***

This is a photography workshop oriented towards using photography as a creative means of personal exploration. There will be a series of assignments, hands-on instruction in digital darkroom techniques and critiques. Students will keep a journal in which they will describe their impressions of the city, notes about places to photograph, etc. The final product will be a handmade book with words and photographs in response to each individual's exploration of Paris as a vibrant, modern city with a rich, layered history.

### ***Grading Policy:***

Grades are based upon: effort (as expressed by quantity of work); quality, which will be evaluated by the following criteria: Conceptual Skills, Visual Skills (formal aspects of the prints) and Technical Skills; and class participation (the ability to think about and discuss work in an insightful and articulate manner). Attendance is mandatory—after 3 unexcused absences your grade will be lowered by 1/2 letter grade per class missed.

### ***Supplies/Equipment you provide:***

any format camera w/ manual capability  
light meter (can be built into camera)  
tripod (if possible)  
B&W and/or color film of your choice  
Epson or other photo quality paper for digital printing  
negative sleeves  
blank sketch book  
materials for book (paper, ruler, x-acto, etc.)

### ***Work load:***

The average shooting load for this course is 4-5 rolls per week. Average printing requirement is ~20 different images per week (work prints). In addition to class labs there will be lab time available at Spéos evenings – 6:00-9:30pm – June 21, 23, 28, 30, July 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21

- June 10 Students arrive in Paris.
- June 11 Orientation meeting at IES classroom in Montparnasse.
- June 14 Meet @ IES. Go over syllabus. First assignment: Public Paris—Describe in photographs what is visually unique about Paris with respect to its architecture and history. Write your impressions each day in your sketch book.  
Field trip. Walk through two Iles looking at and photographing architecture, gardens, the Seine, cafés, shops, Notre Dame, etc.
- June 15 Field trip. Eiffel Tower; Champ de Mars; Invalides
- June 16 Field trip. Pompidou Center/Photograph street life outside
- June 17 Darkroom/Digital Lab. Meet at Spéos to get oriented to the facilities. Bring negatives.
- June 21 City of light: Photographing Paris on the summer solstice/Fete de la Musique on the longest day of the year.
- June 22 Darkroom/Digital Lab at Spéos.
- June 23 Studio visit w/ James Startt—American photographer who lives in Paris. Startt will talk about making a living as a photographer/artist in Paris and his experiences photographing the city and its inhabitants.
- June 24 Critique first assignment at IES classroom.  
Second assignment: Personal Paris—find places you are attracted to, perhaps a particular café, a bench in the Jardin du Luxembourg or Place des Vosges. Describe your attraction (formal elements; light; atmosphere; etc.).
- June 28 Field trip to the Louvre to photograph and look at art; photograph in Tuileries/ Place de la Concorde
- June 29 Darkroom/Digital lab at Spéos
- June 30 Death in Paris: field trip to Cimetière du Père Lachaise
- July 1 Field trip: le Marais. Maison Européenne de la Photographie/Hotel de Sully/Place des Vosges
- July 5 A day in the Park. Field trip to les Jardins du Luxembourg
- July 6 Darkroom/Digital lab at Spéos
- July 7 TBA
- July 8 Critique 2<sup>nd</sup> assignment. Final assignment: Make a book of your photographs and personal impressions of the City of Light.
- July 12 TBA
- July 13 Darkroom/Digital Lab at Spéos.
- July 14 Photograph Bastille Day celebrations (parades, etc.).
- July 15 a.m. to Arles, return July 17
- July 19 Book workshop—assembling photographs and text into a handmade book. Pt. I
- July 20 Darkroom/Digital Lab at Spéos.
- July 21 Book workshop pt. II
- July 22 Final Critique
- July 23 Depart Paris