Course Title: Paris Transforming

Course Code: CLS 75

Instructor: Leonard Pitt

Grade options and Requirements:

No Grade Requested (NGR): Just show up for class.

Credit/ No Credit: Just show up for class.

Letter Grade: Write a two-page paper on what surprised you most about Paris that you did not know before. This is due in the week following the end of the course. This paper will be treated confidentially and will be deleted from my computer when no longer of any use.

Preliminary Weekly Outline

Week 1. Ile de la Cité. This, the birthplace of Paris two thousand years ago, was nearly wiped clean by Haussmann in the 1860s and 70s. We'll walk pre-Haussmann streets to compare the old with the new and ponder both the success of the city he built as well as the price of the progress he brought.

Week 2. The Left Bank - from the Middles Ages to modernity.

Haussmann's iconic Boulevards Saint-Germain and Saint-Michel broke through a labyrinth of small medieval streets to give us Paris, the great walking city we all know and love. See the old and the new and ask, what did we lose, what did we gain?

Week 3. How We Almost Lost the Marais.

Originally a posh quarter for the French aristocracy, by the mid-20th century the Marais had deteriorated into a grimy slum shunned by the Parisian public. In a fit of rationality, city urbanists of the 1950s decided that the only solution was to demolish the entire quarter and rebuild in the modern aesthetic of the day. More enlightened individuals stepped forward to save this historic district for posterity. See images and hear stories of this dramatic history that will surprise, shock, and delight you.

Week 4. Reason and Rage - the histrionics of Paris urban design.

Much of the layout and design of Paris came about, not through a process of reason and deliberation, but rather because of raw emotion and irrational states
of mind. e.g., Place des Vosges, the Louvre, Palais Royal and more. We'll visit these places to uncover the drama behind their creation and will see how this continues to play out in modern Paris today.

**Week 5. Paris, Once Upon a Time.**

The postcard revolutionized communication and changed the world just as our email of today. Every parlor in America had a bible and a postcard album with cherished scenes from around the world. Views of Paris were highly prized. Over a million postcards a day were produced in France. In this talk you will discover Paris of the early 1900s though my own collection of vintage postcards. The images show us a Paris that no longer exists. The messages written by Americans to loved ones back home evoke the American experience of Paris at the turn of the century. Charm and history are delivered in equal parts.