

Identity, Politics, Education, and Culture: African Americans in Paris

Intensive Weeklong Study Abroad at the Paris Research Center
Spring Break 2010. March 7-13.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1907)



Dr. Anna Julia Cooper (1925)



Dr. Angela Davis (1963)

AFA 4905 (2 Credits)

Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans

This course will explore the African American presence in Paris. Since the mid-1700s scores of African Americans have visited, lived, and worked in France. Students will research the experiences and perceptions of Black Americans and study why and how a sustained pattern of visitation has occurred. Significant attention will be paid to how gender and sexuality were woven into Black experiences and interpretations of Black Parisian life.

The course will introduce students to three groups of Black Americans who have traveled to Paris: 1) political persons, 2) academics, and 3) culture bearers. Some of the most famous visitors include Sally Hemings (enslaved by Thomas Jefferson), Frederick Douglass, Carter G. Woodson, Josephine Baker, Anna Julia Cooper, W.E.B. Du Bois, Alain Locke, Jesse Fauset, Billy Holiday, Duke Ellington, Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King Jr., Marian Anderson, Stokely Carmichael, Katherine Dunham, Alvin Ailey, Nina Simone, Malcolm X, Angela Davis, Miles Davis, Ray Charles, John Edgar Wideman, Toni Morrison, Cornel West, and Maya Angelou.

A cross-disciplinary approach will facilitate learning about African Americans in Paris. The fields of political science, performing arts, literature, sociology, history, and economics all offering points of entry to this topic. Students will approach topics chronologically, but also thematically and geographically to see the various reasons African Americans have continued to engage in Parisian life.

Students are required to complete course readings before the trip. On-site assignments include attending lectures, cultural events, and significant sites such as the Sorbonne University. After the trip, students submit a final paper that brings together their disciplinary interests with political and cultural analyses.

For more information, please contact Dr. Stephanie Evans at drevans@ufl.edu
Dr. Gayle Zachmann, Director, Paris Research Center at paris-research@clas.ufl.edu or
Dr. Martin McKellar, Coordinator of Study Abroad, MMckellar@ufic.ufl.edu

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Class size limited to 15.