



EAT, PRAY, LOVE: SACRED SPACE AND THE PLACE OF RELIGION IN 21ST CENTURY FRANCE

Winter Term 2017: Montpellier, Lourdes, Paris

Prof. LD Russell

Senior Lecturer of Religious Studies
Department of Religious Studies
Spence Pavilion 210, Campus Box 2340
(336) 278-5243
russelll@elon.edu
Fall Office hours: M 3:00-4:30pm;
F 3:00-4:30pm

Dr. Sarah Glasco

Associate Professor of French
Department of World Languages and Cultures
Carlton 324, Campus Box 2125
(336) 278-5713
sglasco@elon.edu
Fall Office hours: M 2:30-3:45pm; T 11am-12:15pm;
W 1:30-3:00pm & by appointment

GBL 267 4 s.h. Winter Term in France

Course description: With time spent in Paris, in the vibrant medieval city of Montpellier, France, just ten minutes from the Mediterranean Sea, and in cities and towns nearby, this course will explore both historical and current notions of sacred space and perceptions of religious experience in French culture through the palate of gastronomy, art, architecture, and popular music. In so doing, students will examine France's paradoxical relationship to itself and study this country's shifts in national identity vis-a-vis organized religion due to decolonization and immigration during the last century. Course facilitation will include cultural studies texts, journal articles, French/Francophone literature in translation, video news reports and podcasts, films, documentaries, popular music, and on-site visits to places such as restaurants, cafés, cathedrals, abbeys, castles, the Papal palace in Avignon, mosques, a medieval synagogue and Jewish ghetto.



The Great Mosque of Paris

From the Holy Land to Hagia Sophia and Mt. Fuji to Mecca, why do we experience some places as more special than others?

- What makes a sacred space feel like hallowed ground?
- What precisely do we mean by *holy*?
- How do various subcultures express their understanding of self and world in the location and design of certain spaces that they consider sacred?

From Paris to Montpellier

Both Paris and Montpellier afford a rich variety of ancient and contemporary sites, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim and prehistoric, where we can explore the meaning of the sacred as it is set forth in geographical and architectural forms. And yet, not every location we visit may strike you as religious in the traditional sense. Imagine, if you will, le Louvre as a temple of visual art, *le Stade de France* as the high church of soccer, the Cordon Bleu as the cathedral of haute cuisine.

Paris breathes intellectual air, ethnic and religious diversity, artistic appreciation, and culinary excellence at every corner: with its open-air markets, bistros, and *boulangeries*, its myriad of museums, historic landmarks and countless places of worship— all these spaces are deemed sacred by different people, and thus Paris embodies an ideal location to learn about cultural cohabitations in a multi-ethnic and multi-faith society.

The city of Montpellier is located in south central France 10 minutes from the Mediterranean. It was established around 985CE as a village of merchants importing spices from the Levant. With the imports came the medical uses of their products from the knowledge of Arabic medicine. By 1000CE, many Arab and Jewish trading partners were teaching merchants and students there. The school of medicine founded at this time is the oldest in Europe and still a prestigious medical school today. Montpellier is a vibrant, animated medieval city with a diverse population.



Why France?

In the US, France is beloved by many, despised by some, and all too often misunderstood. Yet France has long been a valuable partner of the US, politically and militarily, and its culture wields extensive influence over American arts, fashion, and food.

Students seeking to become global citizens stand to learn a great deal about their own cultural assumptions from first-hand experience of French politics, customs, and mores.

Moreover, exposure to the history and current state of relations among the many and varied religious communities in France will provide a rich source of information and possible options for how the United States might move forward into an increasingly multi-cultural future.



The Catacombs, Paris

In this course we will:

- Express ourselves in our own words on a variety of topics, some perhaps controversial or quite foreign to our own cultural conditioning;
- Explore French points of view on culture, space, place, privacy, and religion, and draw cultural comparisons;
- Establish links/make connections between the study of French culture and perspectives and other academic disciplines;
- Extend the study of French culture, French-American relations, and the concept of sacred space beyond the classroom and into larger communities.

Course expectations for students and professor:

The student will:

- come to class having checked the Moodle site for assignments and announcements.
- come to class having read and completed the assigned work.
- come to class prepared to engage in active class discussion and small group or pair activities, volunteering often.
- answer and ask questions frequently.
- demonstrate effort throughout the term.
- adhere to the Elon academic and social honor codes.

The professors will:

- be enthusiastic and rigorous about teaching and learning.
- provide opportunities for discussion, reading, and writing throughout the course.
- make every effort to answer student questions in a timely manner.
- be available to help students who are having difficulty.
- conduct the course with integrity and be exemplary ambassadors abroad.

Growth on Many Levels

Study abroad offers an amazing opportunity to grow in various ways. Please see below for examples of our high expectations for your experience in France. Consider adding your own goals below and check out the itinerary to start planning how to achieve them!

Academic Course Goals

- To study, question and analyze: a) the nature of religion and its many cultural manifestations; b) the history and current status of religious culture in France; c) how perceptions of sacrality are embodied and expressed in art and architectural styles, and d) contemporary religious expressions and activities in non-traditional forms.
- To analyze substantial connections between the worldviews, power structures, and experiences of French culture in particular, historically and in contemporary contexts, in order to strengthen socio-linguistic awareness and learn to respectfully interact with other cultures.
- To experience and develop writing, speaking, reading, critical thinking and reflection skills.

Global Engagement Goals

- Problem-solve and function within an unfamiliar context.
 - Student Learning Outcome: The student will apply acquired knowledge and skills to implement culturally appropriate solutions to issues of communication and navigation within specific French socio-cultural contexts.
 - Assessment medium: Scavenger hunt activity with specific tasks, destinations, and interactions with locals.
- Analyze the interconnectedness of global systems.
 - Student Learning Outcome: The student will demonstrate a nuanced understanding of multiple perspectives of sacred space as it is embodied across cultures with particular reference to French culture and Franco-American geopolitical relations.
 - Assessment medium: Create a photographic essay (6-7 full pages of text with visual representation and bibliography).

Other global engagement goals for this course include: a) Critically evaluating one's own culture and biases; b) Understanding the multiple dimensions of human experience within and across cultures and environments; c) Examining one's responsibilities as an active global citizen informed by multiple cultural perspectives; d) Developing self-awareness and self-confidence through exposure to and reflection on difference; e) Interacting and communicating effectively with those from another culture or background using appropriate cultural and linguistic strategies; f) Reflecting on how understanding language is essential to understanding other cultures.

Individual goals

- _____
- _____

Course and University policies

Success: *The most important thing you must do to succeed in the class is to inform us of anything that you do not understand immediately. You can meet with us during office hours or contact us via e-mail. We truly enjoy the student contact and are here to be helpful. Please let us know in advance if you plan to come to office hours or if you would like to meet at another time/day.*

The way to get the most out of any course is by doing assignments to be prepared for each class session, and then attending class and participating actively. But you will get more out of the course if you go above and beyond with suggestions under "Useful Resources" (see page 6). This course is largely discussion based and will revolve around assigned readings and personal experiences. It promises to be engaging, enlightening and even entertaining, but everyone must do his/her part in order for the whole to function at its best.

Attendance: *Attendance is mandatory.* Attendance is taken at the on the bus/at the beginning of excursions. A student is expected to arrive on time and be present for the entire excursion/activity during the winter term. Serious illness or other unforeseen situations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Two late arrivals or two early departures (or a combination thereof) constitutes one absence from an excursion. More than one missed excursion will adversely affect your participation grade.

Showing up for classes/events/excursions is not sufficient to receive full participation credit. You should be attentively listening to our guides, taking notes, asking our guides and facilitators questions during all tours, and actively engaging with your peers about the subject at hand and other course material when guides are not speaking and when you have free time during our excursions. It is only fair to your classmates that you display a positive attitude and serious interest in what we are doing. Complaining and other such behaviors spoil experiences for everyone, so keep a positive attitude and trudge on even under adverse conditions. It will be cold at times. It may be rainy at times. Our guide might be late. A restaurant may screw up your order. Perhaps you will have not worn proper footwear or a warm enough coat, BUT Remember: we're all in this thing together!

Grading Policy: *Final grades are NOT rounded up. Please be aware of this policy, and take responsibility for your performance in the course.*

A= 93-100 A-= 90-92.99	"A" indicates <i>distinguished</i> performance in a course.
B+= 87-89.99 B= 83-86.99 B-= 80-82.99	"B" indicates <i>above-average</i> performance in class.
C+= 77-79.99 C= 73-76.99 C-= 70-72.99	"C" indicates <i>average</i> performance in which a basic understanding of the subject has been demonstrated.
D+= 67-69.99 D= 63-66.99 D-=60-62.99	"D" indicates <i>passing</i> performance with deficiencies.
F= 59.99-0	"F" indicates <i>failed</i> performance.

Grade composition: Winter Term on site in France!

20%	Active Participation in excursions, guided tours, and group dinners (see rubric for details)
30%	3 Collaborative Blog entries while in France (see rubric for details)
20%	Weekly on-line participation in the blogosphere convo while in France (see rubric for details)
30%	Individual article/media project due post-return
100%	

Honor Code: An Elon student's highest purpose is academic citizenship: Giving first attention to learning and reflection, developing intellectually, connecting knowledge and experiences, and upholding Elon's honor codes. This course recognizes and adheres to the principles of the Elon Academic Honor Code. Students are expected to be familiar with the code and follow it consistently. If you have any questions about your responsibilities within this course, please do not hesitate to consult with me. You are also encouraged to refer to the Elon Academic Honor Code at the following website: <http://www.elon.edu/docs/e-web/students/conduct/honorsystem.pdf>

HONESTY: *Be truthful in your academic work and in your relationships.*

INTEGRITY: *Be trustworthy, fair and ethical.*

RESPONSIBILITY: *Be accountable for your actions and your learning.*

RESPECT: *Be civil. Value the dignity of each person. Honor the physical and intellectual property of others.*

NOTE: The legal drinking age is 18 in France. Wine is an important part of French culture and viticulture is a sacred art and science there. Though we will be visiting vineyards and wine bars as well as tasting wines and consuming some with meals while in France, excessive drinking is not acceptable. Excessive use of alcohol results in an inability to meaningfully participate in scheduled activities or assignments. It poses a risk to your own safety (be it through accidents or increased vulnerability), and to the safety of others. It also poses a risk to the integrity of the course as inappropriate student behavior may result in canceling of agreements with hotels, transportation companies, guides, guest lecturers, etc.

Furthermore, as binge drinking is not common or acceptable in France, it reflects poorly on our own culture and prohibits the development of cross-cultural alliances. Students may not consume alcohol before or during any course-related activities. Missing events due to alcohol-related illness or showing up hung-over or with alcohol on one's breath is also unacceptable. Violation of these policies will negatively affect your class participation grade. Repeated violations will result in a loss of all engaged participation credit (20% of your overall grade). Professors will report all breaches of this policy or excessive use of alcohol outside of class time to the Isabella Cannon Centre for Global Education. Any alcohol use that results in endangering the well-being of the student or of other students, or affects any course activities, may result in the student being sent home at his/her own expense and being terminated from the course with a grade of F. Students who violate this policy will also face honor code violation charges upon return to Elon.

Disabilities: Special accommodations can be made for students with a documented disability or medical condition, provided that they inform the instructor either at the beginning of the semester or when the condition is diagnosed (whichever comes first). Information about the Elon's services and policies for students with disabilities can be found at the following website: http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/support/disabilities_services.xhtml

Counseling Services: For Elon students, faculty, and staff, Counseling Services is always available as a resource for consultation at www.elon.edu/e-web/students/counseling_services/ or (336) 278-7280 during business hours. Please note that North Carolina law prevents Counseling Services staff from providing ongoing clinical care while students are out of state. If you require ongoing care, please contact Counseling Services or your primary service provider well ahead of your study away experience to design appropriate accommodations.

IN FRANCE: For emergencies and crisis support, contact emergency services in France: Universal European Emergency (will redirect to appropriate service): 112; Ambulance: 15 Fire: 18 Police: 17

Useful resources

Your classmates: It is often useful to meet up with a classmate outside of class to discuss readings, to watch French films, to attend worship services, or to get additional notes if you have been absent. Please meet a couple of classmates and note their name and phone numbers here for your future reference:

Student : _____

Student: _____

Tentative Travel Itinerary: January 2nd -January 24th, 2017

Monday, January 2- Travel to France

Students are responsible for getting their own flight to Atlanta, GA in plenty of time for our evening flight to Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris.

Group will depart ATL airport on Air France #681 at approximately 6:20pm

Tuesday, January 3- Montpellier

Air France Flight #681 arrives in Paris at approximately 8:20am local time.

Group will depart Paris-CDG airport on Air France flight #7680 to Montpellier at 1:05pm

Group will arrive into Montpellier airport on Air France #7680 at approximately 2:25pm, and will be escorted by coach for transfer to the Ibis Montpellier Centre Hotel.

- Supplier: Cars La Populaire
- Local phone: 04 67 58 75 95
- From a US phone: 011 33 4 67 58 75 95
- We will request Thierry and have requested the use of the bathroom

This evening, the group will have dinner at La Piazza Papa Place de la comédie at 7:30pm

- Pizza + dessert + 1 drink

Accommodations have been reserved for the group at the Ibis Montpellier Centre Hotel:

- Dates of Stay: January 3-13, 2017
- 95, place Vauban Boulevard d'Antigone
- 34000 Montpellier, France

Wednesday, January 4- Montpellier

This morning the group will be given a guided walking tour of the Old Center of Montpellier

- Please arrive at least 5 minutes before departure
 - Danielle has been requested as your guide
- At 6pm this evening, the group will participate in a wine tasting
- Guide: Mrs. Carol Milliez
 - Cell: 011 33 6 22 98 61 04
 - Local phone: 06 22 98 61 04
 - Meeting Point: Office of Tourism – Montpellier

Thursday, January 5- Nîmes

This morning the group will depart via train from Montpellier to Nîmes via train

- Departure at 8:56am, with arrival at 9:23am

Upon arrival, your group will be met by your guide at the train station for a 3-hour guided tour of Nîmes Roman vestiges

- Supplier: Office de Tourisme de Nîmes
- Local phone: 04 66 58 38 00
- Sophie has been requested as your guide

Lunch on own in Nîmes

At 4pm, meet your guide at the Maison Carrée to walk back to the train station

- Departure at 4:46pm, with arrival at 5:20pm

Friday, January 6- Montpellier

At 10am, group will meet at the Musée Fabre for a 2-hour English guided tour

- 13 rue Montpelliéret
- 34000 Montpellier
- Tél. 00 33 (0) 4 67 14 83 00
- Fax. 00 33 (0) 4 67 66 09 20
- Please arrive at least 10 minutes early for your tour

Saturday, January 7- Grotte de Clamouse/St. Guilhem le Desert

This morning at 8:30am, the group will depart via coach from the IBIS Montpellier for a day visit of Grotte de Clamouse and St. Guilhem le Desert

- Supplier: Cars La Populaire
- Local phone: 04 67 58 75 95
- From a US phone: 011 33 4 67 58 75 95

10:00am- Guided visit of Grotte de Clamouse

12:00pm- Lunch stop at Restaurant La Terrasse for crepes near the Grotte de Clamouse

2:00pm- Guided visit of the St. Guilhem le Desert

- Supplier: Office de Tourisme de St Guilhem Le Desert
 - Local phone: 04 67 56 41 98
 - Guide: Julie Dournon has been requested as your guide
 - Cell: 06 84 62 59 94
 - Your guide will meet you in the coach parking which is 100 meters from the tourist office
- 4:00pm- Depart to return to Montpellier

Sunday, January 8- Lerab Ling Buddhist Temple and Retreat

At 8:30am this morning the group will depart via coach from the IBIS Montpellier hotel to the Lerab Ling Buddhist Retreat Center

- Supplier: Cars La Populaire
- Local phone: 04 67 58 75 95
- From a US phone: 011 33 4 67 58 75 95

10:00am- Guided tour of the center followed by lunch

- Supplier: Rigpa Lerab Ling
- Local phone: 04 99 62 00 18
- From a US cell phone: 011 33 4 99 62 00 18

Monday, January 9- Château de la Mogère

Today the group will participate in a guided visit of Château de la Mogère

- 2235 route de Vauguière
- 34000 Montpellier
- +33(0)6 61 14 72 01
- If you take the tram and T's, it is just a 10-minute walk from the station

Tuesday, January 10- Avignon

At 8am the group will depart via coach for a full day guided visit of Avignon

9:30am – Group will begin their 2.5 hour guided tour of the old city and free visit of the Avignon Synagogue

- Meet your guide in Front of the Palais des Papes
- 12pm - Free time for lunch
- 2:30pm - Guided visit of the Palais des Papes
- Your guide will meet you at the entrance of the Palais des Papes
 - Supplier: Office de Tourisme d'Avignon
 - Guide: Nadine Marquier has been requested as your guide
 - Local phone: 04 90 27 50 00
 - Cell: 06 11 81 10 11

Wednesday, January 11- Montpellier

This evening the group will have dinner at Restaurant Les Bains de Montpellier

- Starter + main dish + dessert + wine

Thursday, January 12- Montpellier

No services provided this day by Aladdin Travel: Scavenger Hunt activity to complete/Class meeting

Friday, January 13- Montpellier/Lourdes

At 11:00am, the group will check out of the hotel and leave luggage at the hotel

Group is on their own for lunch this day, and everyone will meet back at the hotel no later than 1:45pm to grab luggage for departure at 2:00pm for Lourdes

6:30pm- group will arrive into Lourdes and will be dropped off at the Hotel Ibis Centre Gare Lourdes

7:30pm- group will have dinner at Hotel Océan, right across the street from the IBIS hotel

- 6-8 avenue Maransin
- 65100 Lourdes, France
- Tél : 05 62 94 50 70
- Fax : 05 62 94 34 01

Accommodations have been reserved for the group at the Hotel Ibis Lourdes Centre Gare:

- Dates of Stay: January 13-15, 2017
- 5 Avenue Général Baron Maransin
- 65100 Lourdes, France

Saturday, January 14- Lourdes

At 2:00pm, the group will participate in a 3-hour guided walking tour of Lourdes and Cathedral

- Guide: Cécile has been requested as your guide

Sunday, January 15- Lourdes/Paris

At 11:30am, the group will check out of the hotel for transfer via coach to the Lourdes airport for departure on Hop! Brit Air #712 at 2:05pm

3:30pm- upon arrival into Paris-Orly airport, group will be met by their coach for transfer to the Mercure Paris la Sorbonne Hotel.

Upon your arrival, your Metro Passes & Museum Passes will be distributed to the group:

- Each person will receive the following:
 - o 5-Day/5-Zone Metro Pass
 - o 5-Day/3-Zone Metro Pass
 - o 4-Day Museum Pass

Accommodations have been reserved for the group at the Mercure Paris la Sorbonne:

- Dates of Stay: January 15-24, 2017
- 14 Rue de la Sorbonne
- 75005 Paris, France

At 5:30pm – Guided tour of the Latin Quarter and Paris isles, with emphasis on the history of religion in Paris & France (Saint Germain, Sainte chapelle, Notre Dame), as well as neighborhood pharmacy & grocery store/market locations.

7:30pm – Welcome Dinner

Monday, January 16- Paris

10:30am –CIEE will provide a Short Orientation Meeting, intro to City of Paris, Safety and Security Tips, using the Métro, followed by an Overview of learning objectives, and then lunch.

At 3:30pm CIEE will help students navigate the metro – Experimenting with the Metro !

At 6:00pm, the group will take part in the Ô Chateau Paris Pass Wine Tasting Experience

- Private Wine Tasting with a buffet of French cheeses and charcuterie
- Please arrive 5 minutes early
- Please note: You must bring your 6 Day Paris Pass
- METRO: Louvre -Rivoli (Line 1) or Etienne Marcel (line 4)

Following the wine tasting experience, the group will have dinner at restaurant Le Pied de Cochon

- <http://www.pieddecochon.com/en/>

Tuesday, January 17- Paris

At 10:00am, your group will meet your guide for a guided tour of the Paris Synagogue in the culturally mixed neighborhood of Belleville

Lunch in the neighborhood on your own

2:00pm- guided tour of the Père Lachaise cemetery, gothic eternal resting place of Chopin, Molière, Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison

- Guide: Pierre-Jean Cornuat

Wednesday, January 18- Paris

This morning at 10:00am, the group will meet Pierre Jean for a guided tour of the Temple of Sri Manicka Vinayakar Alayam

- 17 Rue Pajol, 75018 Paris, France
- Phone: +33 1 40 34 21 89

Following the visit of the Temple, the group will depart from their guide and will head to the Institut des Cultures d'Islam on their own

HANDLED BY CIEE: 2:00pm Discover Muslim culture in Paris with Jacky Lighan

- Institut des Cultures d'Islam
- 19 rue Léon, Paris 18ème.

Thursday, January 19- Paris

This morning the group will visit the Arab World Institute

- 10:00am- first group will start their tour of the Arab World Institute
- 10:15am- second group will start

12:30pm- lunch at the Mosque's tea room

2:30pm-4:00pm- group will visit the Grande Mosquée de Paris

- Entry fees: 3 euros, to be paid directly on site

Friday, January 20- Paris

CIEE: 10:00am- Guest lecture on Islam in Europe and religious diversity in France

Lunch on own

2:00pm- Guided Tour of the Louvre

- Group 1 – 2:15am
- Group 2 – 2:30am
- Meeting point: In front of the equestrian statue of Louis XIV (right in front of the main entrance to the Pyramid)

Saturday, January 21- Paris

At 10:00am this morning, the group will start their guided tour of the Musée d'Orsay

- Meeting Point: 9:50am in front of the Rhinoceros statue at the main entrance

2:00pm- Visit of the Pantheon

Sunday, January 22- Paris

At 8:30am this morning, the group will depart the hotel for Versailles

10:00am- guided tour of Versailles will begin

12:30pm- lunch at Restaurant La Flotille

- Parc du Château de Versailles
- Local phone: 01 39 51 41 58
- From a US cell phone: 011 33 1 39 51 41 58

Monday, January 23- Paris

At 9:30am this morning, your group will meet your guide for a 3-hour walking tour of Montmartre

- Meeting Point: in front of the Moulin Rouge, Place Blanche

Lunch on own

7:30pm- group will have a farewell dinner at Restaurant Le Coupe Choux

- 11 Rue de Lanneau
- 75005 Paris, France
- Local phone: 01 46 33 68 69
- From a US cell phone: 011 33 1 46 33 68 69
- Guide: Pierre-Jean Cornuat

Tuesday, January 24- Return to U.S.A

At 7:30am this morning, the group will depart via coach from the Hotel Mercure la Sorbonne to Paris

CDG airport for departure on DL #682 at 10:50am