

## HISTORY OF FRANCE THROUGH PARISIAN FOOTPRINTS

Professor: **Flavia CANESTRINI**  
Session: **July 2025**  
Language of instruction: **English**  
Number of hours of class: **24 hours**



### Objective of the Course

This course explores key periods in French history from 1789 to the present. Using Paris as a base, it interactively engages learners with the city's landscape to examine themes such as the fall of the French monarchy, the rise of empire, and the transition to industrial capitalism that have all visibly shaped both Paris and the world. Class sessions will discuss these themes, showing that the artistic, intellectual, and political movements that blossomed in their wake have long made France an incubator for political, social, and cultural transformation. With four sessions outside the classroom, learners will also tour three museums to demonstrate why Paris has been and continues to be a nexus for global change.



### Summary

- Paris revolts: the fall of the French monarchy & the rise of the first French Empire (1789-1798)
- Restoring a dynasty: the Bourbons & the July Monarchy (1815-1848)
- Paris takes its form: Hausmann & the Second French Empire (1848-1871)
- From the Commune to the Expo of the Century: Paris as spectacle (1870-1914)
- Water and disaster in the bustling metropole (1880-1914)
- Wine, Bread, & Guns: Paris, France & the World Wars (1914-1945)
- Paris the crucible: France and decolonization (1945-1980)
- May 68, Paris, and modern times (1968-2023)



## Organisation of the course

This course works as a discussion seminar and as an active workshop. It introduces learners to the history of contemporary France through readings that present the session's themes and provide an opportunity for learners to extract key dates and exercise their critical analysis skills. We will discuss these readings in class, and pair or larger group discussions will be a common activity throughout this course. Active participation is essential to the success of this course. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions - there are no "preferred answers" or a single "class point of view." I believe the most enriching seminars are those that present a diversity of perspectives. My goal is to create an open, respectful space where we can exchange ideas, critique one another constructively, and share experiences. In addition to your class participation, the main requirement is a final essay or creative project on a topic of your choice, related to the course material.



## Visits (TBD)



Musée Carnavalet



Musée des Egouts



Porte Dorée - Musée de l'Immigration



Jardin des Tuileries & Palais Royal



## Professor's Biography



Flavia CANESTRINI is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Political Science at LUISS University, Rome, Italy. Before starting her position there, she was a Research Associate at the Department of History of the European University Institute. She holds a PhD in History from the Center for History of Sciences Po, Paris, France. During her doctoral studies, she spent a year as a visiting graduate Fellow at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA. She has taught several courses in Global and Economic History for undergraduate and graduate students at Sciences Po Paris and Reims and at LUISS University.