



## **On Experience : Practicum Seminar on Otherness, Work, and Culture    EDUCO**

**Prof. Brent Keever**

### **Course Description**

This course provides a theoretical framework for students engaged in an shadow internship or volunteer project during the semester. Your 55 to 100 hours of experiential project will feed our reflections on the relationship between Self and Other in the French context, the perception and management of difference, the construction and value of work, the legal codes that define the rights and responsibilities of employees and employers, the techniques of observation and mindfulness à la française, as well as the very representation and definition of discovery in the literary, cinematographic and sociological fields.

Our analysis of texts and your experience will be complemented by co-curricular visits to museums such as the Musée de l'Homme and the Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, as well as by lectures and screenings of selected films.

Our course focuses on your experience and your project. Your own experience and observations are of prime importance, and will feed into our analysis of the texts studied. So, as with any course, attendance and participation are essential.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Give you the theoretical and practical tools you need to make the most of your experiential project.
- Understand the challenges of intercultural communication in the French context.
- Explore the logics of identity and otherness in French thought and culture.
- Discover the culture and value of work in France today, as well as the rights and duties of workers and employers.
- Understand work as a battlefield in the struggle for equality.

### **Assessments and duties**

- 1) A PPT presentation of your experiential project. 10-15 minutes. 15%
- 2) A final presentation with PPT at the end of the course, relating what you have learned and observed. 10-15 minutes. 15%
- 3) Two essays of 5 to 7 pages that weave together your experiential project, the visits and interventions, and the texts studied. 40%
- 4) A written internship report synthesizing what you've learned from the texts you've studied. 5 to 7 pages. Plus a logbook describing your experiential project. 30%

### **Attendance and Participation**

Note : This syllabus is a base model. The instructor is free to alter and modify its content in concertation with EDUCO. All is subject to change.



Your participation and attendance are essential for this course to take shape. Be on time and ready to share your observations, analyses and experiences.

If you are absent, you will need to provide an official document to justify your absence (a medical certificate, for example). For two unjustified absences, your final mark will drop by one point (a 14/20 will become a 13/20; a 15/20 will become a 14/20). Three unjustified absences will result in a 0/20 for the course. (See Academic Guidelines)

EDUCO policy prohibits the use of AI and tools such as ChatGPT in the production of assignments. Your essays and oral presentations must be of your own creation, and anything that does not come directly from you must be cited and acknowledged according to the rules in force.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1

Course presentation. Explanation of the context of your experiential project. Structured visit to the Musée de l'Homme (Paris 16th, Metro Trocadéro (line 9)): What is a human being? How can we observe human activity? How can we represent the great diversity of humanity?

If you can't attend the Musée de l'Homme visit, you'll have to go yourself at a time that suits you.

Reading:

- De Beauvoir, Simone. "Introduction. Le deuxième sexe.
- Lévi-Strauss, Claude. "Comment on devient ethnographe" in *Tristes Tropiques*.
- Marin, Claire. "Lézarder" in *Être à sa place*.

IMPORTANT: Friday, January 26. Meeting to discuss EDUCO internship and volunteer projects.

### Week 2

Discuss your options. Prepare CV, cover letter and interview. Reflections on the visit to the Musée de l'Homme. Discussion of Beauvoir's Subject and the Other, and Lévi-Strauss's ethnographic structuralism. Structured tour of the Musée du Quai Branly (Métro Iéna (line 9), 7th arrondissement).

Reading :

- Derrida, Jacques. "Structure, signe, jeu dans le discours des sciences humaines" in *L'écriture et la différence*. Especially the first 5 pages.
- Ladmiral and Lipiansky. "Identity and alterity" in *Intercultural communication*.

### Week 3

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Reflections on the visit to the Musée du Quai Branly. Discussion of Derrida, the representation of difference and the theater of otherness. Structured visit to the Musée de l'Histoire de l'Immigration (Métro Porte Dorée (line 8), 12th arrondissement).

- Derrida, Jacques. Excerpts from Monolinguisme de l'Autre.
- Marin, Claire. "Les vies rétrécies" and "Les déplacés".

#### Week 4

The question of education and training in France. Comparative analysis of your experience at a Parisian university. Critique of evaluation. Introduction to habitus. Excerpts from Sociology is a combat sport.

Further reading:

- Bourdieu, Pierre. Excerpts from La reproduction.
- Cassin, Barbara. Introduction. Derrière les grilles.

Cinema outing

#### Week 5

Reflections on culture and education. First presentation on your experiential project.

FIRST ESSAY DUE BEFORE COURSE STARTS!

#### Week 6

The value of work in France today.

Lecture :

- Méda, Dominique. Le travail, part one.

#### Week 7

Round table on the representation of work today.

Reading: Méda, Le travail, part two.

Films:

Brizé, Stephan, réal. Another world, 2022.

Gravel, Eric, réal. A plein temps, 2022.

#### Week 8

Lecture by invited labor lawyer Rights and responsibilities of employees and employers. Legal identity of companies and associations. Round-table discussion on the profile of your place of business.

Reading:

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- Extracts from the French Labor Code (analyzed during the presentation).
- Méda, Dominique. Le travail, last part.

#### Week 9

The fight for equality. Overcoming discrimination and neo-colonialism. History of the Goutte d'or and its workers. Current events in the refugee crisis and forgotten workers.

#### Reading :

- Piketty, Thomas. A brief history of equality. Pages 253-322.

#### Week 10

Taking action for equality and social justice. Visit to Cité audacieuse, Paris 6ème, an association dedicated to women's equality.

#### Reading :

- Pour l'intersectionnalité, Mazouz and Lépinard

SECOND ESSAY DUE BEFORE THE START OF THE COURSE

#### Week 11

Food and culture. The place of eating in French society and work life. Discussion of your exchanges during your experiential project.

#### Reading

- Derrida, Jacques. Excerpts from L'hospitalité.
- Attali, Jacques. Extracts from Histoire(s) de l'alimentation.

#### Week 12

Final presentation on your experiential project. Work group on internship report.

#### Week 13

Conclusions and final experiments. INTERNSHIP REPORT DUE BEFORE THE START OF THE COURSE!

Many thanks and good luck!

### **Bibliography**

Attali, Jacques. Histoire(s) de l'alimentation : de quoi manger est-il le nom ? Fayard, Paris, 2019.

Augé, Marc. Qui est donc l'autre? Paris, Odile Jacob, 2015.

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Bourdieu, Pierre. *La reproduction: éléments pour une théorie du système d'enseignement*. Minuit, Paris, 1970.

Cassin, Barbara, ed. *Derrière les grilles : sortons du tout-évaluation*. Mille et une nuits, Paris, 2014.

De Beauvoir, Simone. *Le deuxième sexe*, Vol.1. Paris, Poche, 2008.

Derrida, Jacques. "Structure, signe, et jeu dans le discours des sciences humaines" in *Ecriture et différence*. Paris, Seuil, 1967.

---. *Hospitalité*, Vol. 1, Séminaire 1995-1996. Paris, Seuil, 2021.

---. *Le monolinguisme de l'Autre*. Paris, Galilée, 1996.

Ladmiral, Jean-René and Lipiansky, Edmond Marc. *La communication interculturelle*. Paris, Les Belles Lettres, 2015.

Lévi-Strauss, Claude. *Tristes tropiques*. Paris, Plon, 1955.

Marin, Claire. *Être à sa place*. Paris, Humensis, 2022.

Mazouz, Sarah and Lépinard, Eleanore. *Pour l'intersectionnalité*. Paris, Anamosa, 2021.

Méda, Dominique. *Le travail*. Paris, PUF, 2004.

Piketty, Thomas. *A Brief History of Equality*. Paris, Seuil, 2021.

#### Film and television

Brizé, Stephan, real. *Another World*, 2022.

Carles, Pierre. *Sociology is a combat sport*, 2001.

Gravel, Eric, real. *A plein temps*, 2022.

Star, Darren, creator. *Emily in Paris*, Season 1, 2019.

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