This course traces the significance of France, and especially Paris, in African American historical experience, intellectual history, and artistic production. Using biography, memoir, literature, art, and film, we will explore the lives of African American writers, artists, exiles, and expatriates within and beyond France. Our course will be divided into two parts. The first half will explore the lives of enslaved African Americans, fugitive slaves, abolitionists, and les gens de couleur libres in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century France, including the legacies of the Haitian Revolution and the experiences, writings, intellectual and artistic production of Sally Hemings, William Wells Brown, Armand Lanusse, B. Valcour, and Camille Thierry. The second half will explore the lives of African Americans in France in the long twentieth century, including the experiences, writings, intellectual and artistic production of W.E.B. Du Bois, Anna Julia Cooper, Josephine Baker, Carter Woodson, Countee Cullen, Jessie Fauset, Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Bennett, Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Sidney Bechet, Chester Himes, and Jean-Michel Basquiat. Finally, we will consider the public history and legacies of these experiences in France and the United States. Students may have the opportunity to participate in an excursion to James Baldwin’s home in St. Paul de Vence.

http://ase.tufts.edu/europeanCenter/programs/talloires/registration.asp