Paris in the 19th century: City of Lights – City of Sins
ILML 337A: French Literature in Translation MTh 9:10-11. Dr. Dominique Duvert
The class is conducted entirely in English. Literary and historical documents will be provided.

19th century Paris captivated the imagination of the most prestigious writers of its time. Balzac, Hugo, Zola, Baudelaire all described Paris as a city of sins and a city of lights.

Follow Hugo in the sewers of Paris. Explore the financial high society and witness the creation of a luxurious department store with Zola. Visit the poorest areas of Paris with Eugene Sue. See the making of a modern city through the eyes of its architects.

Through the writings of some of the most well-known French writers of the time, discover how Paris worked, danced, ate, drank, loved and fought. Revolutions and wars tore Paris apart and yet Paris never ceased to reinvent itself during one of the most dynamic period of its history.

Through our reading of literary selections and authentic historical documents, we will follow the transformations of the city throughout the 19th century. We will end with the building of the Eiffel tower in 1889.