To read Baudelaire is to discover not only a poet of international acclaim, but the entire human condition. In Baudelaire's world, thought, art, passion, spirituality, and perversity intertwine. Beggars, clowns, and streetwalkers live side by side with lovers, concertgoers, and Parisian deities.

In this course, students explore the multi-dimensional aspect of this complex universe so grippedly evoked in Baudelaire's writings, including reflections on human nature and morality, the role of women and of art, the plight of society's victims, and the dynamics and drama of life in the French capital.

**Texts:** (these editions are required)

*Les Fleurs du Mal.* Classiques de Poche; *Le Spleen de Paris.* Classiques de Poche; *Ecrits sur l’art.* Classiques de Poche; *Dictionnaire portatif du bachelier.* Profil, Hatier.

**Format:** Active participation, short papers, mid-term and final exams, final paper.