

What follows is a condensed version of the Cather seminar program; that is, it does not include full academic affiliations, bios, or condensed abstracts of papers. You will receive the complete program in printed form at the first session in Paris. However, this version should give you a fairly complete overall picture of the seminar and indicates where presenters are included in the program.

Willa Cather: A Writer's Worlds The 11th International Seminar

Sunday 24 June, Paris

8:30-11:30 a.m. Plenary 1--Café Solférino, 262 Blvd. St. Germain (Métro Solférino)

Coffee (hot drink) and croissant

Welcome and Orientation.

The Directors. Distribution of printed program, museum passes, Cather walking tour maps, etc.

Introduction to the Cather Foundation.

Betty Kort, Executive Director;

Charles A. Peek, President of the Board of Governors.

“The Professor’s Window: Seeing is Nothing, Looking is All.”

Charles A. Peek, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

12:00-6:00 p.m. Musée d’Orsay, 1 Rue de Bellechasse (two blocks north and east of Café Solférino)

Your museum pass will allow you to enter without waiting in line. Seminararians are urged to visit the museum in small groups. Devote at least two hours to your visit. The museum is open until 6:00 p.m. with last admissions at 5:15 p.m. Of particular interest to Catherites will be the Realism and Barbizon School paintings on the ground floor (north), the Puvis de Chavannes across the central gallery on the ground floor (south), and the Impressionism collection on the upper level (south). It is suggested that you have lunch before your visit, although there is a coffee shop and snack-bar on the top floor of the museum as well as a more elaborate restaurant.

6:00 p.m. *Shadows on the Rock* Walking Tour

If you want a directed tour on Sunday evening, meet in Square Jean XXIII, the park in back of Notre-Dame Cathedral (Métro Cité). The tour will include commentary on the Notre-Dame portals, continue to Ile St-Louis, cross the Pont Marie to Quai des Célestins,

pause at Hotel de Sens, meander through Village St-Paul and into the Marais district, where you can choose from among many restaurants to have dinner.

Monday 25 June, Paris

9:00-11:00 a.m. Plenary 2—Amphithéâtre, Sorbonne Nouvelle, 5 Rue de l'École de Médecine (Métro Odéon)

“Willa Cather in Paris: The Mystery of a Torn Photograph.”

Mark Madigan, Nazareth College (New York).

“Pershing’s Crusaders’: G.P. Cather and the American Expeditionary Force in France.”

Richard C. Harris, Webb Institute, New York.

“Writing and/while/as Weaving: *Shadows on the Rock/La Dame à la Licorne.*”

Cristina Giorcelli, University of Rome 3.

11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Musée National du Moyen Age (the Cluny), Place Paul Painlevé (near the amphitheatre) and the **Panthéon**, place du Panthéon (a few blocks to the south and east, off Blvd. St-Michel), can be visited without waiting with your museum pass. These visits can be short if you are interested only in Cather connections. ***The Lady and the Unicorn* tapestries** are located **on the first floor** (not the ground floor) **of the Cluny**, and in the **Panthéon** the **Pierre Puvis de Chavannes scenes from the life of St. Geneviève** are toward the front of the **right (south) wall** (the single panel “The Childhood of St. Geneviève” [she kneels before a twig cross] and the triptych “Geneviève meets St. Germain and St. Loup” [two bishops]), and toward the back of the **left (north) wall** (single panel “Geneviève watches over the city of Paris” and triptych “Geneviève distributes food during the siege of Paris”). These are the murals (at the time contemporary art) that Cather claimed inspired the legendary rather than dramatic style of *Death Comes for the Archbishop*: “Since I first saw the Puvis de Chavannes frescoes of the life of Saint Geneviève [in 1902], I have wanted to do something a little like that in prose” A stroll through the **Luxembourg Gardens**, which border Blvd. St-Michel opposite the Panthéon, is strongly recommended. In the middle is the *grand bassin*, where Cather posed for the 1920 snapshot on the cover of our program.

4:00-6:00 p.m. Plenary 3, Amphithéâtre, Sorbonne Nouvelle, 5 Rue de l'École de Médecine.

Keynote Address

“Shadows of a Rock’: Translating Willa Cather.”

Marc Chénétier, Professor of American Literature at the University of Paris 7 and a Senior member of the Institut Universitaire de France, directs the “Observatoire de Littérature Américaine” and edited the “Voix Américaines” monograph series. He has

published over 200 articles on American literature and culture, and among his fifteen books are *Beyond Suspicion*; *Sgraffites, Encre & Sanguines*; *The Wizard of Odds: Paul Auster's Moon Palace*; *La perte de l'Amérique: archéologie d'un amour*, and *Steven Millhauser: la précision de l'impossible*. His translations of 50 American novels include 8 of Cather's. Since 2004, he has been President of the European Association of American Studies.

Directions for Travel to Provence on Tuesday.

6:15 p.m. *Shadows on the Rock Walking Tour.* For those interested, the Cather-related tour through the islands and to the Marais will depart from the amphitheatre after the plenary session.

Tuesday 26 June, Travel from Paris to Avignon

1:20 p.m. Departure of Group 1 from Gare d'Lyon, Train 6113—arrival at Avignon 3:56 p.m. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to departure.

2:20 p.m. Departure of Group 2 from Gare d'Lyon, Train 6115—arrival at Avignon 4:56 p.m. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to departure.

You will have received at Plenary 3 directions regarding the group you are assigned and also the transportation arrangements from the Avignon TGV station to Abbaye Saint-Michel de Frigolet.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Dinner—Hotel Restaurant. Abbaye Saint-Michel

8:45 p.m. Plenary 4—Salle du Bon Pasteur

Keynote Address

“Telescope, Microscope, Window—Cather's Distance from Her Texts.”

A. S. Byatt was made a Dame of the British Empire in 1999 in recognition of her significant contributions as a writer. She achieved best-seller status in the U.S. with *Possession: A Romance* (1990), a Booker Prize-winning novel. Her Proustian quartet of novels (*The Virgin in the Garden*, *Still Life*, *Babel Tower*, and *A Whistling Woman*), chronicles English life during the 50s and 60s. She has also published novellas and is a distinguished short story writer; her most recent collection is entitled *Little Black Book of Stories*. A. S. Byatt's literary criticism includes several Cather studies and introductions to the Virago editions of Cather novels. Earlier this June, Oxford University honored her with a Doctor of Letters.

Wednesday 27 June, Abbaye Saint-Michel

7:00-8:15 a.m. Breakfast--Hotel Restaurant

8:30-9:30 a.m. Plenary Session 5--Salle du Bon Pasteur

Directors' Update for Avignon Excursion

"The Green Vase, Yellow Orange, and White Chapel: Defining Willa Cather."
John J. Murphy, Brigham Young University.

9:45-11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions 1

A. European Matters--Salle du Bon Pasteur

"Cather, Lewis, and Fitzgerald: Midwesterners in Europe."
Stephen L. Tanner, Brigham Young University.

"Willa Cather and Edith Wharton: Fashioning Soldiers for the War in France."
Julie Olin-Ammentorp, LeMoyne College.

"Claude Wheeler's Three Joans: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Cather's French Medievalism."
Janet Sharistanian, University of Kansas, and Susan Noakes, University of Minnesota.

B. Journeying—Salle St-Norbert

"Pilgrimage and Immigration in Cather's 'French Novels.'"
Diane Prenatt, Marian College, Indianapolis.

"Aesthetics and Faith: Cather's Christian Pilgrimage."
Sheryl L. Meyering, Southern Illinois University.

"French Travel Culture in the Works of Cather."
Julie M. Cox, University of California at Santa Cruz.

C. The Challenges of Spaces--Salle Xavier de Fourvières

"Space and Place in Willa Cather and George Sand."
Marshall Toman, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

"Intimacy and Immensity: *The Professor's House* and Bachelard's *The Poetics of Space*."
Stacey Guill, Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

"[A] climate within a climate': Geographic Allegory in Cather's Fiction."
Susan Naramore Maher, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

11:30 a.m.-12:00 noon Plenary Session 6—Salle du Bon Pasteur

“What Do Spaniards Exactly Look Like in Cather’s Imagination?”

Manuel Broncano, University of Leon, Spain.

12:15-1:30 p.m. Lunch--Hotel Restaurant

1:45 p.m. Buses depart for Avignon

Arrival in Avignon at Porte de l’Oulle. The city within the walls is quite walkable. First among the sites is the 14th century Palace of the Popes, Cather’s favorite building in the world and the setting of the surviving fragment of *Hard Punishments*, the unfinished Avignon novel. The massive building (2.6 acres) can be toured accompanied or unaccompanied and audio-guides are available. Adjacent are the 12th century Notre-Dame des Doms Cathedral and Doms Rock, both visited by Cather, who commented on the views from the latter. (Suggested reading: “The Old City of the Popes,” *The World and the Parish* 2, 933-39). Other highlights include Pont St. Bénézet (the bridge of the folksong), Petit Palais, and several interesting churches: St. Agrical, St. Didier, St. Pierre, etc. There are also many shops and eating places ranging from McDonald’s upward.

9:30 p.m. Buses depart from Porte de l’Oulle for Abbaye Saint-Michel

Thursday 28 June, Abbaye Saint Michel

7:00-8:15 a.m. Breakfast--Hotel Restaurant

8:30-9:45 a.m. Plenary Session 7--Salle du Bon Pasteur

“Report from Cherry Valley, where Willa Cather was likely ‘overcome by a feeling of place.’”

Joseph Urgo, Hamilton College, New York.

“Cather Meets Herself in Southern France—Twice.”

David H. Porter, Williams College.

10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon Concurrent Sessions 2

D. Early 20th Century Contexts--Salle du Bon Pasteur

“Willa Cather Among the Magazing Masses.”

Charles Johanningsmeier, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

“Benda, *My Antonia*, and Czech Folk Artist Mikolás Alés.”

Evelyn Funda, Utah State University.

“Lorado Taft’s Great Lakes Fountain and ‘The stream and the broken pottery’: Cather’s Layering of the Arts.”

Evelyn Haller, Doane College, Nebraska.

“Throwing Out the Furniture: Cather and Edward Hopper.”

John Jacobs, Shenandoah University.

E. Food Culture—Salle St. Norbert

“Willa Cather and Agriculture: Canned Food, Pure Food, and French Food.”

Susan Meyer, Wellesley College.

“Food Politics and Military Technology in *One of Ours*.”

Allison Carruth, Stanford University.

“Chocolate and Cold Grease: The Gastronomy of *Shadows on the Rock*.”

Andrew Jewell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“Dining with Trinidad: Food, Flesh, and Hispanic Masculinity in *Death Comes for the Archbishop*.”

Julia McCrossin, George Washington University.

F. Prairie Matters--Salle Xavier

“Early Cather and the American National Identity.”

Claudia Teinert, Concordia University, Texas.

“Art, Artists, and Audiences in *The Troll Garden*.”

Emily Kane, University of Georgia.

“Fear of the Parish, Freedom of the World: Community Opinion in Cather.”

Margaret Doane, California State University, San Bernardino.

“An Empty Vessel: Eden Bower in ‘Coming, Aphrodite!’”

Jan Treffer Thompson, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

12:15-1:30 p.m. Lunch--Hotel Restaurant

1:45-3:00 p.m. Plenary Session 8--Salle du Bon Pasteur

“‘[T]he bravest act of his life’: Cather, Claude, and the Disadvantage of a Prairie Childhood.”

Elsa Nettels, College of William and Mary.

“*The Professor’s House* and the Culture of Middle-class Leisure.”
Richard H. Millington, Smith College.

3:15-5:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions 3

G. The *Archbishop* and Landscape--Salle du Bon Pasteur

“*Death Comes for the Archbishop: To Become a Story.*”
William Dow, American University of Paris.

“‘As a Mirror and a Symbolism’: Pascal’s Mystical Theology and Cather’s Divine Geometry in the *Archbishop.*”
Jean-Francois Leroux, University of Ottawa.

“Cather’s Ruskinian Landscapes: Typologies of the New World.”
Joseph C. Murphy, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan.

“Cather’s Displaced Mediterranean Landscapes.”
Cheryl Swift, Whittier College.

H. Native and Religious Topics—Salle St-Norbert

“‘[A] kind of life out of reach’: Willa Cather’s ‘Indian Time.’”
Jean C. Griffith, Wichita State University.

“From Savage Pagans to People of Superior Strength: Representation of Native Americans in the *Archbishop.*”
Yoshiko Kayano, Meisei University, Tokyo.

“Cather’s Green Christianity.”
Breanne Grover, Brigham Young University.

“The Spiritual Convergence of ‘Old Mrs. Harris’ and *Shadows on the Rock.*”
Marvin Friedman, independent scholar.

I. Aesthetics, Technique--Salle Xavier

“Narrative Ambiguity and Precise Detail: Catching the Rhythm in *Shadows on the Rock.*”
Joy Johnson, University of Georgia.

“Writing in Three Dimensions: Things in *A Lost Lady.*”
Celine Manresa, University of Toulouse-Lemirail.

“The Dressing of Character: Color, Contrast, and Costume in *The Professor’s House.*”

Jane M. Rainis, Drew University.

“Extending Cather Studies through Film Adaptation.”

Susan A. Schiller, Central Michigan University.

5:30-6:45 p.m. Plenary Session 9--Salle du Bon Pasteur

“Willa Cather and the Nordic Ideal.”

Sherrill Harbison, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

“Losing and Finding ‘Race’: Old Jezebel’s African Story.”

Ann Romines, George Washington University.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Dinner--Hotel Restaurant

8:45 p.m. Intermezzo--Salle St-Norbert

“Cather as Lyricist in Litchfield’s Setting of ‘The Swedish Mother.’”

Ariel Bybee and James E. Ford, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“The Professor’s Mouse 2.0: New Developments on the *Willa Cather Archive*”

Andrew Jewell, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Friday 29 July, Abbaye Saint-Michel

7:00-8:15 a.m. Breakfast—Hotel Restaurant

8:45 a.m. Buses depart for Arles and Les Baux. To avoid excessive crowding of both sites, seminarians will be divided into two groups. One group will go to Arles first and the other to Les Baux. After lunch (a box lunch will be provided), each group will depart for the other site.

1:30 p.m. Buses traveling from Arles to Les Baux will depart from the arrival point in the parking area along the Rhone River in Arles. **Buses traveling from Les Baux to Arles** will depart from the arrival point near entrance, Porte Mage.

Arles: Cather described Arles in “In the Country of Daudet,” *The World and the Parish* 2, 946-52. The trip between Arles and Les Baux will cross Daudet country. Highlights at Arles include the 2nd century Roman Amphitheatre, the 1st century BC Roman Theatre, the 11-12th century, Midi Romanesque St-Trophime Cathedral (the Doorway [Portal] is of special significance) facing Place de la République with its obelisk. All sites are in a very concentrated area containing many shops and businesses.

Les Baux de Provence: Picture a gray American Southwestern mesa with a French village winding its way to the flat summit crowned by the ruins of a fortified medieval castle and that is Les Baux. A visit clarifies the connection Cather made between the Southwest and Provence. The way to the summit is lined with shops and eating places, and the views of surrounding vineyards and olive groves from the summit are magnificent.

6:00 p.m. Buses will depart for Abbaye Saint-Michel from the drop-off locations in Arles and Les Baux.

7:30 p.m. Dinner—Hotel Restaurant

9:00 p.m. Informal Discussion, Seminarists and Staff—Restaurant Garden

Question: How might this experience of France influence Cather studies, our approach to Cather's works?

Saturday 30 June, Abbaye Saint-Michel

7:00-8:15 a.m. Breakfast—Hotel Restaurant

8:30-9:45 a.m. Plenary Session 10—Salle du Bon Pasteur

“Permanence and Transmission: Willa Cather’s Gift.”
Guy Reynolds, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“[T]he quivering of moonbeams on the water’: Voice, Power, and ‘the thing not named’ in Cather’s Fiction.”
Mathieu Duplay, University of Lille 3.

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Concurrent Sessions 4

J. Cather and Colleagues—Salle du Bon Pasteur

“Collaboration in the Composition of *Sapphira*: Cather, Lewis, and Bloom.”
Charles W. Mignon, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“Edith Lewis’s Career at *Every Week*, World War I, and *One of Ours*.”
Melissa J. Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“The (Broken?) Promise of French Culture in *One of Ours*, Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant’s *Shadow-Shapes*, and S.S. McClure’s *Obstacles to Peace*.”
Matthew J. Lavin, University of Iowa.

“At the Side of Willa Cather: The Story of the Cather/Lewis Gravesite.”
Anne L. Kaufman, Bridgewater State College, Massachusetts.

K. Claude and Godfrey—Salle St-Norbert

“Silencing *le Soldat Inconnu* in *One of Ours*.”
LaVona L. Reeves, Eastern Washington University.

“*One of Ours* and the Struggle for Moral Autonomy.”
Vincent Allan King, Black Hills State University, South Dakota.

“‘[M]isfortunes that occur within one are the greatest’: Godfrey St. Peter’s Resistance to the Spiritual.”
Anne Schafer, University of St. Thomas, Minnesota.

“Vanity, Chivalry, and Desire in *The Professor’s House*.”
Sarah Gardam, Drew University.

L. Unique Perspectives—Salle Xavier

“The Ethnic Presence in *Sapphira*: Representation of the ‘Dutch’ and Other Europeans.”
Peter M. Sullivan, Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

“The Genealogical Formation of Female Heroism in *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*.”
Shushan Chang, George Washington University.

“‘All you’ve got in your throat, there’: The Pathology of Voice in *The Song of the Lark*.”
Cecilia Bjorken-Nyberg, Holmstad University, Sweden.

“Willa Cather’s French Connections: Two Ballets and *One of Ours*.”
Wendy K. Perriman, independent scholar.

12:15-1:30 p.m. Lunch—Hotel Restaurant

1:45-3:00 p.m. Plenary Session 11—Salle du Bon Pasteur

“Willa Cather’s *Comédie Humaine*.”
Ann Moseley, Texas A&M University-Commerce.

“Willa Cather: Flaubert’s Parrot?”
Merrill Maguire Skaggs, Drew University.

3:15-5:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions 5

M. Wider Angles—Salle du Bon Pasteur

“A Writer’s World: Willa Cather and Transnationalism.”

Catherine Morley, Oxford University.

“St. Peter’s ‘little joke’: Cather’s Tableau Vivant in *The Professor’s House*.”

Nancy Chinn, Baylor University.

“Literary Texts at War: Considering *One of Ours* in an International Context.”

Sabrina A. Ehmke, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“Cather’s Household of Exiles: ‘Double Birthday,’ *Obscure Destinies*, and the ‘future yet unforeseen.’”

Joshua Dolezal, Central College (Iowa).

N. Flaubert and Colette—Salle St-Norbert

“The Temptation of St. Peter: Flaubert’s St-Antoine and *The Professor’s House*.”

Stéphanie Durrans, Université Michel de Montaigne-Bordeaux 3.

“The Influence of Flaubert’s *Trois Contes* on *Obscure Destinies*.”

Kathleen D. Danker, South Dakota State University.

“Souvenirs intimes: Caroline Franklin Grout and Willa Cather.”

Judith L. Johnston, Rider University, New Jersey.

“Recapturing Lost Time: Maternal Obsession in Cather and Colette.”

Isabella Caruso, City University of New York.

O. Cosmic, Fantastic, Personal—Salle Xavier

“‘[W]here do the swallows go in winter?’ The Cosmic Framework of Cather’s *Returning Seasons*.”

Isabel Maria Fernandes Alves, University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal.

“‘Winter Winds in Arcady’: Early Cather and the Medieval Arcadia.”

Faye Ringel, United States Coast Guard Academy, and Sean McMullen, Melbourne University.

“Youth and the Bright Utopia: Ancient and Imaginary Worlds in Cather Stories.”

Sean Lake, Fordham University, and Theresa Levy, Queens College (CUNY).

“‘[W]hy don’t you ever hit back?’ Impotence and Power in Cather’s Short Fiction.”

J. Gabriel Scala, University of Mississippi.

5:30-6:45 p.m. Plenary Session 12—Salle du Bon Pasteur

“Willa Cather in Space: Vagrancy, Exile, and Knowing.”

John N. Swift, Occidental College, Los Angeles.

“Willa Cather’s Geography of Order in *One of Ours*.”

Steven B. Shively, Utah State University.

7:15 p.m. Reception—Hotel Garden

8:00 p.m. Farewell Dinner—Hotel Restaurant

Sunday 1 July, Abbaye Saint-Michel

8:00-9:30 a.m. Breakfast—Hotel Restaurant

12:00 noon Departure for Avignon TGV Station

2:01 p.m. Departure for Paris, Train 6118