The Poet in Paris will offer an intermediate-level course (ENGL 406) in poetry writing for undergraduate creative-writing majors (and non-majors with the approval of the instructor) in Paris, France, over the month-long Maymester 2020 term. This workshop is intended for mature undergraduates, with some travel experience, able to assimilate other cultures and arts in a major metropolitan city, and who are able to make arrangements at their own expense for transportation, lodging, and meals. More information will be distributed to those interested.

Students will participate in poetry workshops, three mornings each week for three hours, where we will critique poems written in English while we study as models the works of both American and French poets. Students with an intermediate knowledge of French will also be given translation exercises. Texts will include Paul Auster’s Random House Book of 20th Century French Poetry, along with poems by the French Symbolists, and books by contemporary American and French poets. Various writing assignments, including an ekphrastic exercise, will utilize the rich museum and gallery scene in Paris.

Immersion into the Parisian culture and deep historical landscape should serve as a catalyst for students to broaden their vision and range as writers, and also to hear their own language more clearly. They will meet with other poets and artists, attend readings and art openings, while studying at the Paris American Academy, where our classes will be held. Fluency in French is not a requirement but a keen interest and desire to learn the language can heighten a writer’s work. This course provides a wonderful immersion into French culture interspersed with communal dinners, picnics, visits to galleries, bike rides, and walks along the Seine.

Professor Mark Irwin,  
Paris American Academy  
275 Rue St. Jacques, Paris, 75005

- GPA 3.0 Minimum.  
- A 10-page portfolio of poetry submitted electronically.  
- Preference given to Creative Writing / English Majors but others will be considered.  
- Registration for ENGL 406 / Intermediate Poetry Writing (ENGL 406 may be taken two times for credit).