

**Instructor:** Paul Mazgaj

**Office:** 213 McIver

**Office Hrs.:** Tues. and Thurs. 10:00-10:30; 1:45-2:30

And by appointment

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### **READING LIST:**

#### **TO BE PURCHASED:**

Popkin, Jeremy *A History of Modern France* (Second Edition)

Colton, Joel *Léon Blum: Humanist in Politics*

Howard, Michael *The First World War*

Jackson, Julian *The Fall of France*

Sartre, Jean-Paul *No Exit and Three Other Plays*

#### **AVAILABLE IN LIBRARY RESERVE AND ELECTRONIC FORM:**

–For electronic form go to Library Website, click on

Reserves, type in HIS371 and download (ER on syllabus)

–For hard copy go to Library Reserve Room

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**1. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED, NOT OPTIONAL.** The class depends on your regular attendance and participation. Only officially certified absences will be accepted. All unexcused absences will affect your grade. *Beyond two, they will seriously affect your grade.* If you tend to miss classes, this is not the course is probably not for you.

**2. THIS IS A WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSE.** There will be two kinds of writing assignments, informal and formal:

**INFORMAL WRITING.** The informal writing assignments will be done in class and consist of a short commentary on the day's assigned reading on randomly selected days. Be forewarned: you need to be prepared for an informal writing exercise *every day*. Thus, you need to have completed the day's reading assignment *before every class*. These short, informal writing exercises will not be "graded" in the ordinary sense. Instead, they will receive one of the following marks: a check (indicating satisfactory performance); a check plus (indicating a performance which is especially thoughtful or well-conceived); a check minus (indicating unsatisfactory performance). A check minus cannot be redone. It will signal to me that either you have not done the reading or you have not done it carefully enough. Better than average performance on these informal writing exercises will be counted positively in your "discussion grade." *Check minuses will, like absences, affect your grade.* The purpose of these informal writing exercises is threefold: first, to give you regular practice in written expression; second, to get you mentally pump-primed for the class discussion that will follow; finally, to keep you from falling behind in your reading assignments. If you are not in

class that day, you will receive a check minus.

**FORMAL WRITING.** There will also be one formal writing assignment. It will consist of a 8-10 page paper (typed, double-space) that will be turned in twice. The first version *will not be* graded but instead will receive my commentary and suggestions for revision; the second and final version *will be* graded. The topic should be an *interpretive* problem, selected from material covered in the course, and approved by me. The vehicle for this approval will be a short but thoughtfully-conceived and well-written prospectus describing your interpretive problem. You should also include a short bibliography indicating the sources that you intend to use. These sources must include at least one full-length book and at least two articles (or parts of books) *beyond the assigned course reading*; all sources must be serious pieces of historical scholarship (if in question, check with me). All "due dates" (see course outline below) are--barring certified medical emergencies--carved in stone; late papers will be penalized.

### **3. YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:**

- mid term exam 25%
- final exam--25%
- formal paper--25%
- discussion grade--25%

Your discussion grade will be determined by the *frequency* and *quality* of your contribution to class discussion. *Therefore, please take note: your participation--and the frequency and quality of that participation--can affect your grade, big-time.*

### **CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

[ER: Electronic Reserve; also on closed reserve at Library]

#### **Aug 17: Introduction**

##### **19: The French Revolution and the Origins of Modern France**

*Reading:* Popkin, pp. 35-65

##### **24: France in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

*Reading:* Tombs, "Inventing Politics" in *French People Since Napoleon* (Alexander Martin, ed.), ER

##### **26: The Founding of the Third Republic**

*Reading:* Popkin, pp. 132-152

##### **31: A Land of Peasants**

*Reading:* Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen*, chaps. 1 and 18, ER

#### **Sept 2: From the Fin-de-Siècle to the Belle Epoque**

*Reading:* Popkin, pp. 153-183

##### **7: The Radical Republic**

*Reading:* Zeldin, "Radicalism," in *France, 1848-1945*, Vol. I, ER

**9: The Rise of Socialism**

*Reading:* Zeldin, "Socialism," in *France, 1848-1945*, Vol. I, ER

**14: Educating Frenchmen**

*Reading:* Zeldin, "Education and Hope," in *France, 1848-1945*, Vol. II, ER

**16: The Great War I**

*Reading:* Howard, *The First World War*, pp. 1-66

**21: The Great War II**

*Reading:* Howard, *The First World War*, pp. 67-143

**23: The Great War III**

*Reading:* Eksteins, *Rites of Spring*, chap. IV, ER

**28: Research Strategies**

Visit from Kathy Crowe, Jackson Library

**30: French Socialism between Bolshevism and Democracy**

*Reading:* Joel Colton, *Léon Blum*, pp. 3-91

**Oct 5: From the Great War to the Great Depression**

*Reading:* Popkin, pp. 202-218;

**\*\*propsectus due**

**7: The Popular Front**

*Reading:* Colton, *Léon Blum*, pp. 92-197

**12: Fall Break**

**14: Mid-Term Exam**

**19: The Decline and Collapse of the Popular Front**

*Reading:* Colton, *Léon Blum*, pp. 198-307

**21: The Fall of France I**

*Reading:* Jackson, *Fall of France*, pp. 1-142

**26: The Fall of France II**

*Reading:* Jackson, *Fall of France*, pp. 143-249

**28: Vichy, Collaboration, and Resistance**

*Reading:* Popkin, pp. 230-245

**Nov 2: Existentialism I**

*Reading:* Sartre, "Existentialism," ER  
de Beauvoir, "The Second Sex," ER

**4: Existentialism II**

*Reading:* Sartre, "The Flies," in *No Exit*

**9: The Short, Miserable Life of the Fourth Republic**

*Reading:* Popkin, pp. 246-263;

**11: The Menace in the West: The Specter of Americanization**

*Reading:* Kuisel, *Seducing the French*, chaps. 2 and 5, ER

Hoffmann, "De Gaulle's Foreign Policy," in *Decline or*

*Renewal?*

chap. 11, ER

**16: Le Grand Charles: De Gaulle and the Fifth Republic**

*Reading:* Popkin, pp. 264-272

**\*\*first version of paper due**

**18: The Aborted Revolution: May 1968**

*Reading:* Popkin, pp. 273-281

Hoffmann, "Confrontation in May 1968," in *Decline or Renewal?*

chap. 6, ER

**23: De Gaulle's Fifth Republic Without De Gaulle**

*Reading:* Popkin, pp. 282-294

**25: Thanksgiving**

**30: Evaluation/Review**

**\*\*final version of paper due**

**Dec 2: Final Exam**