

Instructor: Paul Mazgaj

Office: 2121 MHRA

Office Hrs.: 11:00-11:30 MWF

3:15-3:45 MW

And by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Any attempt to understand modern France must begin with the French Revolution. After consideration of the meanings attached to the Revolution, the focus of the course will shift to twentieth-century France. Here the major topics we will consider include: the Great War and its enormous impact upon French society and collective memory; the Popular Front; the humiliating defeat of 1940 at the hands of Nazi Germany; the Occupation and the Vichy Regime; France's long adjustment to the postwar realities, culminating with the founding of De Gaulle's Fifth Republic; the "Revolution" of 1968; the consolidation of "Gaullist" democracy of the late 20th century; and, finally, France's recent difficulties with the integration of its large and growing Muslim population.

LEARNING GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

At the successful completion of this course, a student should expect:

- to have acquired a general knowledge of the political, social, and cultural history of France in the twentieth century
- to know how to interpret both primary and secondary source material and integrate such interpretations into a larger understanding of the period
- to be able to analyze and synthesize historical material and to demonstrate these skills in the semester paper and the three essay exams

READING LIST:

1. Books to be Purchased:

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

Neiberg, Michael *Fighting the Great War: A Global History*

Jackson, Julian *The Fall of France: The Nazi Invasion of 1940*

Cogan, Charles *Charles de Gaulle: A Brief Biography*

Camus, Albert *The Plague*

2. On Electronic Reserve:

All the other readings are on Electronic Reserve (ER) and can be downloaded by going to Blackboard, scrolling down to HIS 365, clicking, then scrolling down to e-reserves (on left) and clicking again.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE. *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 course is probably not for you.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS. There will be two kinds of writing assignments, informal and formal.

1. Informal Writing. From time to time during the semester, you will be asked to write a short commentary on the day's assigned reading. 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.*

2. Formal Writing. There will also be one formal writing assignment. It will consist of a 8-10 page paper (typed, double-space). 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 medical emergencies--carved in stone; late papers will be penalized.

GRADES. Your final grade will be composed of the following:

first exam: 20%
 second exam: 20%
 final exam: 20%
 semester paper: 20%
 discussion grade: 20%

--**Grading Scale.** The undergraduate grading scale cut-offs are as follows:

A+	97	C	73
A	93	C-	70
A-	90	D+	67
B+	87	D	63
B	83	D-	60
B-	80	F	59
C+	77		

--**Discussion grade.** 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--will seriously affect your grade.

PLAGIARISM AND THE ACADEMIC HONOR CODE. Plagiarism is a serious academic crime that occurs when someone uses the words or ideas of someone else without giving that person credit in a formal citation. Punishment for violations are outlined in the Academic Integrity Policy. For an explanation see the UNCG website under “Academic Integrity Policy.”

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

*=books to be purchased

ER=reading on electronic reserve; can be downloaded from Blackboard

Aug. 20: Introduction

22 : France under the ancien régime

Reading: *Popkin, pp. 7-35

24: The French Revolution I

Reading: *Popkin, pp. 36-51

Aug. 27: The French Revolution II

Reading: *Popkin, pp. 52-82

29: France in the 19th Century

Reading: Tombs, “Inventing Politics” ER

31: The Founding of the Third Republic

Reading: Popkin, pp. 143-166

Sept. 3: Labor Day--No Class

5: Late 19th Century France--A Land of Peasants

Reading: Weber, “A Country of Savages” ER

Weber, “Who Sang the Marseillaise?” ER

7: The Dreyfus Affair

Reading: Brogan, “Captain Dreyfus” ER

Sept. 10: The Early 20th Century French Left: Radicals and Socialists

Reading: McMillan, “The Prewar Left” ER

12: The Early 20th Century French Right: The Action Française

Reading: Tannenbaum, “Nationalist Right” ER

14: The Origins of World War I

Reading: Stevenson, “The Destruction of Peace” ER

Sept. 17: The Great War: From Movement to Stalemate

Reading: *Neiberg, pp. 1-38; 67-94

19: The Great War: The Bloodlettings of 1916 and 1917

- Reading:** *Neiberg, pp. 150-76; 229-54
21: The Great War: Endgame
Reading: *Neiberg, pp. 306-64
- Sept. 24: First Exam** (bring bluebook)
26: Putting Things Back Together
Reading: Paxton, "The Paris Peace Settlement" ER
- Sept. 28:** The Impact of the Bolshevik Revolution
Reading: François Furet, "The Revolutionary Enchantment" ER
- Oct. 1:** Postwar France, 1919-1934
Reading: *Popkin, 220-39
Due: Semester paper prospectus
3: A French New Deal?
Reading: Maurice Larkin, "The Popular Front: Legend and Legacy" ER
5: The Front Against Fascism Collapses
Reading: Joel Colton, "The Popular Front and the Spanish Civil War" ER
- Oct. 8:** The Rise of Nazi Germany
Reading: P.M.H. Bell, "Eve of War, 1932-37" ER
10: The Politics of Appeasement
Reading: Bell, "Eve of War, 1938-39" ER
12: The Fall of France, 1940 (1)
Reading: *Jackson, pp. 1-100
- Oct. 15: Fall Break**
17: The Fall of France, 1940 (2)
Reading: *Jackson, pp. 101-82; 228-49
19: The Dark Years: Nazi Occupation
Reading: *Popkin, 252-71
- Oct. 22:** Film: Au Revoir les enfants (1)
24: Film: Au Revoir les enfants (2)
26: Charles De Gaulle and the Resistance
Reading: *Cogan, 16-67
- Oct. 29:** Existentialism: Jean-Paul Sartre
Reading: Sartre, "Existentialism" ER
31: Existentialism: Simone de Beauvoir
Reading: de Beauvoir, "The Second Sex" ER
- Nov. 2:** Existential Fiction (1)
Reading: *Camus, *The Plague*, parts 1 and 2
- Nov. 5:** Existential Fiction (2)

Reading: *Camus, *The Plague*, parts 3-5

7: Second Exam (bring blue book)

9: The Birth of the Fourth Republic

Reading: *Popkin, 272-84; *Cogan, 68-82

Nov. 12: Village in the Vaucluse

Reading: Laurence Wylie, "Rural French Life, 1950" ER

14: Menace in the West: America in France

Reading: Richard Kuisel, "The New American Hegemony" and "The American Temptation" ER

Nov. 16: The End of Empire

Reading: Rod Kedward, "Colonial Debacles" ER

Nov. 19: De Gaulle and the Fifth Republic

Reading: *Popkin, 293-302; *Cogan, 82-110

21-23 Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 26: De Gaulle and the World

Reading: *Cogan, 111-65

28: The Revolution that Misfired

Reading: Arthur Marwick, "The 'Events' of May 1968" ER

30: France after de Gaulle

Reading: *Popkin, 303-20

Dec. 3: France and Islam

Reading: To Be Announced

5: A New France?

Reading: *Popkin, 321-31 and Kuisel, "The France We Have Lost" ER

7: Summing Up

Due: Semester Paper

Dec. 10: Final Exam (bring bluebook)