History 295: France from Napoleon to the Fifth Republic

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Course meetings: MWF 11-11:50 a.m., Carnegie 313
Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:30 p.m., Thursday 1 p.m.-3 p.m. or by appointment

This course covers the social, political, and cultural history of France from 1799 – Na poléon Bonaparte’s seizure of power – to the present. It pays particular attention to three main themes:
1) the long playing-out of the French Revolution, from Napoleon to the Commune to May 1968;
2) the tensions of citizenship and “belonging” to the Republic (from the Dreyfus Affair to current polemics surrounding immigration); and 3) the role of “modernization” in French society (whether in the context of the mid-19th century or the late 20th century). Topics to be discussed in detail include: the Napoleonic heritage, the episodes of revolution in 1830, 1848 and 1871, the Third Republic’s struggle against its discontents, the expansion of the French empire at the end of the 19th century, the twin catastrophes of two world wars, the post-World War II economic “miracle,” the challenges of decolonization and immigration, and France’s changing role in the world and Europe.

Course Requirements (with percentage of grade in parenthesis)

1. Discussion (20%)

All students are expected to do all of the course readings at the time they are indicated on the syllabus, and to actively participate in class. As part of your discussion grade, you will co-lead one discussion over the course of the semester. (Course dates for these discussions are marked on the syllabus with an asterisk). You will pick a discussion to facilitate at the beginning of the second week of class. Discussion facilitators will be responsible for briefly introducing the readings and preparing key questions for our mutual contemplation that you will circulate to the class (via PioneerWeb) at least 12 hours before our class meeting. You will also meet with me briefly before class to discuss your plans for the discussion.

2. Papers (55%: 15% for each of the 5-page papers, and 25% for the 8-10 page paper)

You will submit three essays over the course of the semester. The first two papers will be in response to one of several designated questions distributed several weeks in advance. You will also submit an 8-to-10-page paper, due near the end of the semester, intended to give you the opportunity to write about a particular topic or question encountered during the course that you
found most particularly engaging. This is obviously not a formal research paper in the sense that you are consulting primary sources, but outside reading of secondary sources is strongly recommended. Those of you with French reading ability might consider integrating French-language readings or scholarship as part of your research. (Your papers, however, must be written in English!)

3. Final Exam (25%)

You will have a final exam at the end of the allotted final examination period for this class, December 19 at noon. The final will deal synthetically with overall themes from the course.

Texts and Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the Grinnell College Bookstore. While I will place a copy of each on reserve at Burling Library, I would strongly recommend that you purchase them for your own convenience and to impress visitors who spot them on your bookshelf.

Isser Woloch, *Napoleon and His Collaborators* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2001)
Azouz Begag, *Shantytown Kid* (Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 2007)

The following readings are required and available on PioneerWeb (with one indicated exception):

T.J. Clark, “The View from Notre-Dame,” in *The Nineteenth Century Visual Culture Reader*, 178-194
Michael Burns, *France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History* (Boston: Bedford St. Martin’s, 1999), 8-11, 28-32, 50-53
**Paul Silverstein and Chantal Tetreault, “Postcolonial Urban Apartheid,”**
http://riotsfrance.ssrc.org/Silverstein_Tetreault/

**Silverstein and Tetreault’s article is available on the internet at the indicated website.**

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments:**

**Week 1A**
August 31 Why France?

**Week 1: Napoleon and the Legacy of the French Revolution**
September 3 France in Revolution: 1789 to the Consulate (Darnton, 1-14)
September 5 The Consulate and the turn towards Empire (Woloch, 3-89; Parry, 1-24)
September 7 The Napoleonic Order (Woloch, 214-243)

*Readings:*

**Week 2: Stasis and Mobility**
September 10 Reshuffling Europe after Napoleon
September 12 The Restoration (Parry, 25-60)
September 14 Discussion of Balzac, *Old Goriot* (entire)

*Readings:*
Honoré de Balzac, *Old Goriot*; Parry, 25-60
Week 3: 1848, or the “Révolution manquée?”
September 17       July Monarchy (Parry, 60-63)
September 19       1848, part I (Agulhon, 1-80)*
September 21       1848, part II (Agulhon, 117-165)

Readings:
Maurice Agulhon, *The Republican Experiment*, 1-80, 117-165
Parry, 60-63

**PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS, SEPTEMBER 21**

Week 4: Louis-Napoléon, the Great Modernizer?
September 24       The Second Empire to the Commune (Parry, 63-72)
September 26       Haussmannization (Jordan, *Transforming Paris*, all selections)*
September 28       Kleptomaniacs and Impressionists (Clark, “The View from Notre-Dame,” and Baudelaire, “The Painter of Modern Life”)

Readings:

Week 5: Republican Instincts, at Home and Abroad
October 1          The Origins of the Third Republic (Parry, 73-92)
October 3          Modernizing France (Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen*, all selections)
October 5          Empire (Conklin, *A Mission to Civilize*, 1-10, 38-106)*

Readings:

Week 6: Challengers to the Republic
October 8          Religious Revival, the Boulanger crisis, and Socialism (Parry, 92-113)
October 10         French Feminism (Primary documents from *Feminisms of the Belle Epoque)*
October 12         The Dreyfus Affair (Primary documents from Burns, Zola)*

Readings:
Primary documents on French feminism from *Feminisms of the Belle Epoque* (Nelly Roussel, Madeleine Pelletier, Hubertine Auclert)
Primary documents on the Dreyfus Affair
  2) Selections from Zola, ‘J’accuse’ and other writings (“J’accuse,” and “The Fifth Act”)
Parry, 92-113

Week 7: World War I
October 15  World War I: Outbreak and Overview (Parry, 113-144)
October 17  Discussion of Barbusse, Under Fire (chapters 1-8)
October 19: Discussion of Barbusse, Under Fire (conclusion)

Readings:
Henri Barbusse, Under Fire
Parry, 113-144

PAPER #2 DUE OCTOBER 17 IN CLASS

FALL BREAK!

Week 8: Rurality, Gender, and Interwar France
October 29  The Peace of Versailles and the 1920s (Parry, 144-159)
October 31  Interwar France: A Civilization Without Sexes?
November 2   Discussion of Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own*

Readings:
Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own
Parry, 144-159

Week 9: From the Popular Front to the Debacle
November 5  The Popular Front (Parry, 159-174; “Program of the Popular Front”)
November 7  The French Collapse of 1940 (Burrin, 1-83)
November 9   NO CLASS

Readings:
Phillipe Burrin, France Under the Germans, 1-83; “Program of the Popular Front”
Parry, 159-174

Week 10: Vichy France
November 12  Accommodations Great and Small (Parry, 174-185; Burrin, 175-227, 245-261, 291-323)*
November 14  Hardcore Collaborators and the Aftermath (Burrin, 411-467)
November 16  A Nation of Résistants?

Readings:
Burrin, France under the Germans, 175-227, 245-261, 291-323, 411-467; Parry, 174-185

Week 11: Rebuilding France, Rebuilding Europe
November 19  Postwar Recovery and European Union(s) (Parry, 185-201; Monnet, 232-263, 288-317)*
November 21  A Nation of Technocrats?
November 23   NO CLASS

Readings:
Jean Monnet, *Memoirs*, 232-263, 288-317; Parry, 185-201

**Week 12: Decolonization**

November 26  Decolonization: Vietnam and Algeria (Parry, 201-206; begin reading Begag, *Shantytown Kid*)
November 28  Migration and Decolonization (Begag, 1-100)*
November 30  Immigration and its aftermath (finish *Shantytown Kid*)

*Readings:*
Azouz Begag, *Shantytown Kid*; Parry, 201-206

**Week 13: May 1968**

December 3  De Gaulle, Anti-Americanism and a New Foreign Policy? (Parry, 207-216; 225-245)
December 5  May 1968: What did the Students and Workers Want? (Feenberg and Freeman, 73-91, 123-145)*

*Readings:*

**PAPER #3 DUE DECEMBER 3 IN CLASS**

**Week 15: Redefining France**

December 10  Mitterrand’s Moment (Parry, 217-225; 246-261)
December 12  Racism, riots and the National Front (Wolfreys, Silverstein and Tetreault articles)*
December 14  France in 2007

*Readings:*
Paul Silverstein and Chantal Tetreault, “Postcolonial Urban Apartheid”
Jim Wolfreys, “Neither Right Nor Left? Towards an Integrated Analysis of the Front National,” 261-276

**FINAL EXAMINATION WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 9 A.M.**

**Additional Ground Rules:**

1. Deadlines are to be taken most seriously. I will automatically grant you one extension on any of the three papers. You must e-mail me 48 hours before the paper is due; you do not need to explain the circumstances necessitating the extension. The extension will be for 72 hours. Barring exceptional emergency circumstances, I will not grant you an extension on another paper. Normally, I take off 1/3 of a letter grade for every 24 hours a paper is overdue.
2. Papers must be double-spaced and have one-inch margins, and should not employ anything larger than 12-point font. E-mailed papers will not be accepted.

3. All written work at Grinnell College is subject to the Student Handbook. If you have questions as to how a particular assignment relates to the Student Handbook, please consult with me in advance of that assignment’s due date.

4. All written work submitted for a grade must be completed in order to pass the course. In addition, any student who misses more than six classes (again, barring exceptional emergency circumstances) will not receiving a passing grade.

5. If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Dean for Student Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, located on the third floor of the Rosenfield Center (x3702).