

Grinnell College
Department of History
Fall 2007

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 – Napoléon 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.

D.L.L. Parry and Pierre Girard, *France since 1800: Squaring the Hexagon* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002)

Isser Woloch, *Napoleon and His Collaborators* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2001)

Honoré de Balzac, *Old Goriot* (New York: Signet Classics, 2004)

Maurice Agulhon, *The Republican Experiment, 1848-1852* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press 1983)

Henri Barbusse, *Under Fire* (New York: Penguin, 2003)

Emilie Carles, *A Life of her Own. A Countrywoman in Twentieth-Century France* (New York: Penguin, 1991)

Philippe Burrin, *France Under the Germans: Collaboration and Compromise* (New York: New Press, 1996)

Azouz Begag, *Shantytown Kid* (Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 2007)

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

Robert Darnton, "The Revolutionary Character of the French Revolution" (talk delivered on Aug. 21, 1989)

David P. Jordan, *Transforming Paris: The Life and Labors of Baron Haussmann* (Chicago, 1996), 91-114, 155-210, 227-245, 267-296, 341-367

Charles Baudelaire, "The Painter of Modern Life," in Vanessa Schwartz and Jeannene Przyblyski, eds., *The Nineteenth Century Visual Culture Reader* (New York: Routledge, 2004), 37-42

T.J. Clark, "The View from Notre-Dame," in *The Nineteenth Century Visual Culture Reader*, 178-194

Eugen Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France 1870-1914* (Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 1976), 3-22, 195-220, 302-338

- Alice Conklin, *A Mission to Civilize: The Republican Idea of Empire in France and West Africa, 1895-1930* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1997), 1-10, 38-106
- Jennifer Waelti-Walters and Steven C. Hause, eds., *Feminisms of the Belle Epoque: A Historical and Literary Anthology* (Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 1994), 1-7, 19-41, 252-291
- Michael Burns, *France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History* (Boston: Bedford St. Martin's, 1999), 8-11, 28-32, 50-53
- Emile Zola, *The Dreyfus Affair: 'J'accuse' and Other Writings* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996), 43-53, 136-143
- Julian Jackson, *The Popular Front in France defending democracy, 1934-1938* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1988), 299-306
- Jean Monnet, *Memoirs* (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1978), 232-263, 288-317
- Andrew Feenberg and Jim Freedman, *When Poetry Ruled the Streets: The French May Events of 1968* (Albany, 2001), 73-91, 123-145
- Michael Seidman, *The Imaginary Revolution: Parisian Students and Workers in 1968* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2004), 1-15, 215-285
- Jim Wolfreys, "Neither Right Nor Left? Towards an Integrated Analysis of the Front National," in Nicholas Atkin and Frank Tallett, eds., *The Right in France: 1789-1997* (London: IB Tauris & Co, 1997), 261-276
- **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:

Robert Darnton, "The Revolutionary Character of the French Revolution;" Isser Woloch, *Napoleon and his Collaborators*, 3-89, 214-243; Parry, 1-24

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 (Aguilhon, 1-80)*
September 21	1848, part II (Aguilhon, 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	Hausmannization (Jordan, <i>Transforming Paris</i> , all selections)*
September 28	Kleptomaniacs and Impressionists (Clark, “The View from Notre-Dame,” and Baudelaire, “The Painter of Modern Life”)

Readings:

David Jordan, *Transforming Paris: The Life and Labors of Baron Haussmann*, 91-114, 155-210, 227-245, 267-296, 341-367; T.J. Clark, “The View from Notre-Dame,” 178-194; Charles Baudelaire, “The Painter of Modern Life,” 37-42; Parry, 63-72

Week 5: Republican Instincts, at Home and Abroad

October 1	The Origins of the Third Republic (Parry, 73-92)
October 3	Modernizing France (Weber, <i>Peasants into Frenchmen</i> , all selections)
October 5	Empire (Conklin, <i>A Mission to Civilize</i> , 1-10, 38-106)*

Readings:

Alice Conklin, *A Mission to Civilize*, 1-72; Eugen Weber, *Peasants into Frenchmen*, 3-22, 193-220, 303-338; Parry, 73-92

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 <i>Feminisms of the Belle Epoque</i>)*
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

1) Selections from Burns, *France and the Dreyfus Affair* (Drumont, “Jews in the Army;” “Interrogation of Alfred Dreyfus;” Léon Daudet, “The Punishment”)

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)*
December 7 May 1968: An “Epochal Moment”? (Seidman, 1-15, 215-285)

Readings:

Andrew Feenberg and Jim Freeman, *When Poetry Ruled the Streets*, 73-91, 123-145; Michael Seidman, *The Imaginary Revolution*, 1-15, 215-285

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”

http://riotsfrance.ssrc.org/Silverstein_Tetreault/

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).