Nineteenth Century France, 1799-1914

This course will examine the political, social and cultural history of France from the rise of Napoleon in 1799 to the outbreak of the First World War. We will follow France's long and difficult road towards democracy, while paying particular attention towards the changing nature of French society.

Requirements: Students are required to do the reading and participate in weekly class discussions. The assigned readings should be completed by each Friday class session. One midterm examination and one final. A paper is also required: 4-6 pages for 3 credit students; 9-11 pages for 4 credit students. Grading will be based on class participation, the paper and the examinations. Books are available for purchase at the University bookstore and are also on 3 hour reserve in Helen C. White library.

Week 1. Introduction

Week 2. Napoleon


Week 3. Restoration and Revolution

Reading: Wright, pp. 95-111; begin reading *Honore de Balzac, Pere Goriot (Penguin Books)

Week 4. The July Monarchy

Reading: Wright, pp. 111-128; Balzac, Pere Goriot (finish book)

Week 5. Revolution and Coup d'Etat, 1848-1852

Reading: *David Pinkney, Napoleon III and the Rebuilding of Paris (Princeton, 1958), pp. 3-74; 105-126; 210-221; Wright, pp. 129-150.
Week 6. The War of 1870 and the Paris Commune


Week 7. Rural Society and a Conservative Republic


Week 8. Politics under the Third Republic

*** MIDTERM. Monday October 19.***


Week 9. The Crisis of the Third Republic

Reading: Wright, pp. 241-252.

Week 10. The Working Class

Reading: Zola, Germinal (Penguin Books)

Week 11. Consumer Culture


Week 12. The Socialist Movement

Reading: Wright, 253-265.

*** PAPER DUE. FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8:50 AM. ***

Week 13. Religion

Week 14. Middle and Upper Class Life


Week 15. France on the Eve of the War

Reading: Wright, pp. 295-306.