To study the twentieth century of any country is to travel a shaky path between the past and the present. This course is designed to give the student a thorough background in French history from the formation of the Third Republic up through the presidency of François Mitterrand. While the class is designed chronologically, and it follows the major political events of the twentieth century, political change will be discussed in the context of social, economic, and cultural change in French civilization. The analytical thread that we will be constantly exploring throughout the course of the semester is the question of 'national identity': How did the Third Republic try to create or stimulate a Republican national identity? In what ways did the World War I challenge or change this identity? How was memory actively used as a tool to engage political or social identification with the nation after each of the world wars? And how was this identity challenged by decolonization, the growth of the European community, and the move toward an international consumer society?

This course is also designed to help students learn to research, write, and polish a historiographical essay. Most of the course readings are concentrated in the first 2/3 of the semester in order to leave more free time at the end for individual work. No previous experience is expected, together we will discuss research materials available in the university libraries, strategies for conducting research, and ways of constructing an historiographical argument. Students will have the opportunity to submit topics, bibliographies and drafts of the paper over the course of the semester and a polished final product (8-10 pages for 3 credit students, 12-15 pages for 4 credit students) will take the place of a final exam. Final grade will be based on mid-term exam, research paper, and class participation.

BOOKS:
Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, Men at War 1914-1918: National Sentiment and Trench Journalism in France during the First World War (Providence: Berg, 1992)
Albert Camus, The Plague or Jean-Paul Sartre, The Wall (student's choice)
Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987)
Plus several additional readings in course pack.... see below.
SEPTEMBER 1, 6 AND 8: INTRODUCTION TO THE DISCIPLINE OF 'HISTORY' AND OVERVIEW OF 19TH CENTURY FRENCH HISTORY

reading: Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own, pp. 1-49. (Note: You should be prepared to discuss all readings at the beginning of the week for which they are listed).

1. Overview of the course, the requirements, the readings, and presentation of general timeline of 20th c. France.

2. Discussion of the concepts 'history', and 'nation'.

3. Very brief overview of 19th century political and social history.


1. The establishment of the Third Republic. The Dreyfus Affair. France on the eve of World War I.

2. Diplomatic and political origins of World War I. Overview of the military history of WWI.


1. RESEARCHING IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF HOW TO WRITE A HISTORIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH PAPER. Bring Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations with you to class.

SEPTEMBER 27 AND 29: RETURN TO PEACE, TREATY OF VERSAILLES, AND THE SOCIAL LEGACY OF THE WAR


2. Social impact of the war — Part II: focus on the impact of World War I on women's role in French society and on the social status, identity. Politics of the lower-middle classes.

OCTOBER 4 AND 6: THE CULTURAL LEGACY OF WORLD WAR I


2. The cultural legacy of World War I. FILM: "The Grand Illusion"

REVIEW FOR MIDTERM

OCTOBER 11 AND 13: FRENCH POLITICS IN THE INTERWAR PERIOD.

reading: McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 89-123.

1. MIDTERM EXAM (IN CLASS ESSAY EXAM)

2. Overview of the political history of the interwar period:

OCTOBER 18 AND 20: A STRANGE DEFEAT. FRANCE, WORLD WAR II, AND THE VICHY GOVERNMENT


1. International and internal politics leading up to WWII. The Munich crisis of 1938. The 'drôle de guerre'.

2. Class discussion of Marc Bloch's, A Strange Defeat. 1 PAGE DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH TOPIC AND PROPOSED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS.
**OCTOBER 25 AND 27: VICHY, LIFE IN OCCUPIED FRANCE, THE RESISTANCE, LIBERATION.**


2. Occupied France, the Resistance, and Liberation.

**NOVEMBER 1 AND 3: THE MEMORY OF VICHY AND THE 4TH REPUBLIC**

**Reading:** Newspaper clippings on the trial of Klaus Barbie (course pack). McMillan, *Twentieth-Century France*, 153-162. (You might want to begin reading Camus or Sartre this week too).

1. The Vichy Legacy: Épuration and justice on the local level. The politics of memory: Vichy in the second half of the twentieth century. The trials of Klaus Barbie and Paul Touvier.
2. Change and continuity in the French Fourth Republic.

**NOVEMBER 8 AND 10: POST WORLD WAR II INTELLECTUALS AND DE-COLONIZATION**

**Reading:** Albert Camus, *The Plague* or Jean-Paul Sartre, *The Wall*

1. Post-WWII intellectuals in France. (Come prepared to discuss Camus or Sartre).
2. French relations with its colonies: focus on Indochina.

**NOVEMBER 15 AND 17: THE ALGERIAN WAR AND GENERAL DE GAULLE**


2. Economic success and social tension under the Fifth Republic. The student revolt of May 68.

**NOVEMBER 22 AND 29, DECEMBER 1: MAY 68**


1. **Film:** Louis Malle's "MAY FOOLS"
2. May 68: students in the streets and the nation on strike.
3. IN CLASS DEBATE: Was May 68 a revolution?
DECEMBER 6 AND 8: SOCIAL CHANGE AFTER MAY 68 AND EUROPEAN UNITY

Reading: finish Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own, pp. 221-260.

1. Social change after May 68: the birth of the contemporary French women's movement. Immigration and immigrants in France. FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE.

2. The making of the European community and European identity.

DECEMBER 13 AND 15: MITTERRAND, THE FAR RIGHT, AND FRENCH IDENTITY TODAY


1. The governments of François Mitterrand.


FINAL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPERS DUE DURING THE EXAM PERIOD.