COURSE DESCRIPTION

The social, political and intellectual history of France is followed from the firm establishment of the Third Republic to the present. An effort is made to relate the structural features of French society to the long-range secular trends that have shaped the nation's history. Critical moments such as World War I, the Congress of Tours, the Popular Front, the creation of the Fourth and Fifth Republics, the events of 1968, the Socialist victory of May-June 1981, and the years of the Socialist government 1981-1988 are analyzed at some length. Similarly, attention is given to the legislative victory of the Right in March 1986 and the victory of the Left in the presidential and legislative elections of 1988. France celebrated in 1989 the bicentennial of the French Revolution. This anniversary invites consideration of the revolutionary heritage, its heirs and the dispossessed in French society in the two hundred years since 1789.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSION

Two lectures and one discussion each week. The discussion sections are essentially devoted to the assigned paperbacks appropriate for each week.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Great emphasis is placed on the student's participation in the weekly discussion: each student will lead at least one such discussion. The final essay examination is a take-home distributed during the last week of class and due on the assigned date of the examination. A brief essay commenting on the book read each week is required.

GRADING SYSTEM

Contribution to the weekly discussion 50%; Final examination essay 50%.

REQUIRED READINGS: All paperbound books

Nizan, Paul. Antoine Bloye, PB 3098 Monthly Review.
Celine, Louis-Ferdinand. Journey to the End of the Night. NDP 84 New Directions.
Malraux, Andre. Man's Fate, V-479-Vin Random.
Bloch, M. Strange Defeat, Norton.
DeBeauroir, Simone. Second Sex, Vintage.
History 349  Contemporary France: 1880 to the Present  Mr. Gargan

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The social, political and intellectual history of France is followed from the firm establishment of the Third Republic to the present. An effort is made to relate the structural features of French society to the long-range secular trends that have shaped the nation's history. Critical moments such as World War I, the Congress of Tours, the Popular Front, the creation of the Fourth and Fifth Republics, the events of 1968, the Socialist victory of May-June 1981, and the 11 years of the Socialist government 1981-1992 are analyzed at some length. At the present time the political and ideological centers of France seem to be unraveling. Something to consider.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Great emphasis is placed on the student's participation in the weekly discussions, students will lead many of the discussions. The final essay examination is a take home distributed during the last week of class and due on the assigned date of the examination. A brief essay commenting on the book read each week is required.

GRADING SYSTEM

Contribution to the weekly discussion 50%; Final examination essay 50%.

REQUIRED READINGS: All paperbound books

Celine, Louis-Ferdinand. Journey to the End of the Night. NDP84 New Directions
Sartre, J.P. The Wall, NDP 272
Bloch, M. Strange Defeat, Norton.
Les socialistes devraient perdre la moitié de leurs régions

Les socialistes ne profiteront pas de ce qu'ils ont vu et ce qu'ils ont escompté. L'élection des conseillers régionaux se traduit par un vote direct et proportionnel. La gauche avait pourtant toujours lutté et lutté que l'avenir de ce système de décisions des conseillers régionaux, les socialistes acceptent le caractère de la République.

Les résultats des élections régionales de 16 mars ont été très favorables à cette nouvelle forme élective. L'ensemble de l'ensemble régional. C'est la première fois en France que le parti est arrivé en tête dans plus de 30 régions. Certes, le Front National a indéniablement été le plus fort dans certaines régions, mais le PS est resté en tête dans la plupart des autres. Les socialistes ont perdu de nombreuses régions, notamment en Alsace, en Lorraine, en Bourgogne et en Champagne-Ardenne. Cependant, ils ont conservé de nombreuses régions en moyenne, grâce à leur large soutien populaire.
MAP I

FRANCE: DEPARTMENTS AND FORMER PROVINCES
(see Départements, p. 104; Provinces, Les Anciennes, p. 575)

1 Comtat-Venaissin, see Venaissin, p. 733.
2 Savoie and Comté de Nice. The Duché de Savoie (out of which the départements of Savoie and Haute Savoie were formed) and the Comté de Nice were not finally ceded to France until 1860.
3 Territoire de Belfort, the portion of the Département du Haut-Rhin which remained in French possession in 1871 after the Franco-Prussian War. It retained its separate administrative status when Alsace and Lorraine were restored to France in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles, and now ranks as a department.
Demographic Evolution of France

Figure 1. - Evolution du taux de natalité

Figure 2. - Evolution du taux de mortalité

Figure 6. - Espérance de vie à la naissance (en années) en France

France

Map of France with population data.