History 868

Seminar in Modern French History

This course will focus on key issues in the political, social and cultural history of France in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Particular attention will be given to contemporary historiographical debates (on both sides of the Atlantic) on such topics as rural history in the nineteenth century or the Vichy régime.

Requirements: Two short (5-7 pages) review essays and one long paper (15-20 pages) on a topic to be agreed upon with the instructor. Those with an adequate knowledge of French will be required to review French language books. Students will also be responsible for leading at least one discussion in tandem with another student.

Starred books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. All books are on 3 hour reserve in Helen C. White Library. Most articles can be downloaded as PDF files through Madcat (just look up the name of the periodical and then track down the volume number); articles not available in this format have been placed on Electronic Reserves (EC).

Week 1. September 2. Introduction and Course Requirements

Week 2. September 9. Napoleon


* Isser Woloch, Napoleon and his Collaborators (Norton, 2001), 36-119; 157-213.

* Martyn Lyons, Napoleon Bonaparte and the Legacy of the French Revolution (St-Martin’s Press, 1994), 1-4; 29-159; 294-300
Possible books for review: Geoffrey Ellis, Napoleon (Longman’s, 1996); numerous biographies by Jean Tulard including Napoléon et le mythe du sauveur (1977); Louis Bergeron, France under Napoleon [L’épisode napoléonien] (Princeton); Isser Woloch, The New Regime: Transformations of the French Civic Order, 1789-1820s (Norton, 1994); François Furet, Revolutionary France

Week 3. September 16. 1848


*Karl Marx, The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte (New York, 1963). (parts I and VII are the most important; read the rest to get the point)


Week 4. September 23. The Napoleonic Legend,

Sudhir Hazareesingh, The Legend of Napoleon (Granta, 2005), 1-14; 40-99; 123-83; 209-233; 260-268

Sudhir Hazareesingh, The Saint-Napoleon (Harvard, 2004), 1-77; 220-235


Possible books for review: Bernard Ménager, Les Napoleon du peuple (Paris, 1988); Natalie Petiteau, Napoléon, de la mythologie à l’histoire (Paris, 1999)

Week 5. September 30. The Peasantry

Roger Price, People and Politics in France 1848-1870 (Cambridge, 2004), 172-273


Week 6. October 7. Third Republic

*** First review essay due Monday October 3 ***

James Lehning, To be a Citizen: The Political Culture of the Early French Third Republic (Cornell, 2001), 1-34; 58-86; 109-127; 155-186


Possible books for review: Sudhir Hazareesingh, From Subject to Citizen: The Second Empire and the Emergence of Modern French Democracy (Princeton, 1998); Robert Tombs, The Paris Commune, 1871 (Longman’s, 1999)

Week 7. October 14. Local and National Identities

Stéphane Gerson, Local Memories and Political Culture in Nineteenth Century France (Cornell, 2003), 1-101; 142-174; 206-230; 256-290.


Week 8. October 21. Fascism


Kevin Passmore, *From Liberalism to Fascism : The Right in a French Province* (Cambridge, 1997), 1-19; 181-310


*Julian Jackson, *France : The Dark Years, 1940-44* (Oxford, 2001), 1-20; 139-235; 239-299; 354-81


Week 10. November 4. **Vichy France: Gender and Masculinity**

Fabrice Virgili, *Shorn Women: Gender and Punishment in Liberation France* (Berg, 2002). *[La France “virile”: Des femmes tondues à la Libération – intro chapters 1, 2, 4, 7, 8]*, pp. 1-37; 75-111; 177-252


Kristen Childers Stromberg, *Fathers, Families and the State in France 1914-1945* (Cornell, 2003), 1-11, 112-195


Week 11. November 11. **Foreign Policy**


Week 12. November 18. **1968**

***Second review essay due Monday November 14***


Week 13. Thanksgiving

Week 14. December 2. No class

Week 15. December 9. **France and the Environment**


**** Make up class. **Date to be determined.** Immigration and Race

Gérard Noiriel, *The French Melting Pot* (Minnesota), xi-xxix; 1-44; 227-278.


Herrick Chapman and Laura Frader eds, *Race in France* (New York, 2004), 1-19; 111-140


*** Final 15 to 20 page Paper due Monday December 19 by 4 pm in my box ***