

History 349: Contemporary France, 1880 to the Present
 Fall 1994
 Lecturer: Mona L. Siegel

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 de-colonization, 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)
- Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own: The Transformation of a Countrywoman in Twentieth-Century France. Translated by Avriel Goldberger (New York: Penguin, 1991)
- James F. McMillan, Twentieth-Century France. Politics and Society (London: Edward Arnold, 1992)
- Marc Bloch, Strange Defeat: A Statement of Evidence Written in 1940, translated by Gerard Hopkins (New York: Norton, 1968)
- 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.

SEPTEMBER 13 AND 15: THE ROOTS OF 20TH CENTURY FRENCH REPUBLICANISM: THE THIRD REPUBLIC, THE DREYFUS AFFAIR, AND THE ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR I

reading: Emile Zola, "I Accuse.....!" (course packet). McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 3-61.

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.

SEPTEMBER 20 AND 22: SOCIAL HISTORY OF WORLD WAR I, WAR IN THE TRENCHES, THE WAR AT HOME.

reading: Stéphan Audoin-Rouzeau, Men at War 1914-1918: National Sentiment and Trench Journalism in France during the First World War. Steven C. Hause, "More Minerva than Mars: The French Women's Rights Campaign and the First World War," (course pack)

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.

2. The war at home: Women and World War I. Strikes and mutinies of 1917. War at the front: group discussion of Men at War 1914-1918: National Sentiment and Trench Journalism in France during the First World War.

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

reading: Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own, pp. 50-142. McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 77-88. Steven Zdatny, "The Class that Didn't Bark: French Artisans in an Age of Fascism," (course pack).

1. Treaty of Versailles. War memorials and war veterans. Social impact of the war — Part I: focus on the impact of World War I on French schoolchildren.
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

reading: Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own, pp. 143-192. Selections from Aimé Césaire, Lyric and Dramatic Poetry (course pack).

1. The cultural legacy of World War I. "Anxious Visions:" Dada and Surrealism in Paris. *Negritude* in Paris (Léopold Senghor and Aimé Césaire).
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

reading: Marc Bloch, A Strange Defeat. McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 124-131.

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.

reading: McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, 135-152. Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own, pp. 195-219. Conclusion to Michael R. Marrus and Robert O. Paxton, Vichy France and the Jews (course pack).

1. General Pétain. The moral order of the Vichy government. Vichy and the Jews.
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

reading: Reading: McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 153-176. Section from Charles de Gaulle, Memoirs of Hope (course pack).

1. Political and diplomatic history of the Algerian war. 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

Reading: McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 177-183. Philippe Bénéton and Jean Touchard, "The Interpretations of the Crisis of May/June 1968" (course pack).

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

Reading: McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, 185-233.

1. The governments of François Mitterrand.
3. French identity and the rise of the far right. Jean Marie Le Pen and the National Front. French identity today.

FINAL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPERS DUE DURING THE EXAM PERIOD.