

COURSE NO.
History 349

COURSE TITLE
Contemporary France, 1914 to the Present

INSTRUCTOR
Mr. Gargan

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The social, political and intellectual history of France is followed from the aftermath of World War I until 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 movements such as the Congress of Tours, the Rightist threat of 1934, the Popular Front, the creation of the Fourth and Fifth Republics, and 1968 are analyzed at some length. France has been described as a stalemated society, a traditional society, a society prone to revolution, a society that changes while remaining the same. Any historical reflection on these helpful clichés must endeavor to adopt them, reject them, or improve of them. The election for president in March 1981 will give France a president until 1988. This will bring France to the eve of the bicentennial of the French Revolution. This anniversary invites consideration of the revolutionary heritage, its heirs and the disinherited in French society in the two hundred years since 1789.

LECTURES

Three lectures and one discussion section each week. The discussion section is 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 discussions: 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.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

REQUIRED READINGS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Wright, Gordon, France in Modern Times, Rand McNally

REQUIRED PAPERBACKS:

Nizan, Paul, The Watchdogs, PB-190 N.R.

Celine, Louis-Ferdinand, Journey to the End of the Night, New Directions (232)

Malraux, André, Man's Fate, V-479-Vin Random

Sartre, J. P., The Wall, EDP 272, New Directions

Blöch, M., Strange Defeat, Norton (140)

Wylie, L., Village in the Steppe, Harvard 371

LeDuc, Violette, La Bastarda, NDAI University Press (An English translation)

Singer, David, Prelude to Catastrophe: France in May 1968, Hill & Wang