

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of History  
Semester I, 2009-10

Laird Boswell  
5127 Humanities, 263-1805  
Office hours: Tuesday 4-6  
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History 349  
Tu-Th 2:30-3:45

Teaching Assistant:  
Terry Peterson (tgpeterson@wisc.edu)

Contemporary France, 1914 to the Present

This course analyzes key issues in contemporary French history from the outbreak of World War I to the twenty first century. Particular attention will be placed on the interplay between political, social and cultural developments. Topics to be studied include the Great War, the Popular Front, the Vichy Régime, the Liberation and the Fourth Republic, Decolonization, De Gaulle and the Fifth Republic, France and the European Union -- as well as broader themes concerning the changing nature of French society, the disappearance of the peasantry, immigration and citizenship, and transformations in gender roles.

**Requirements:** Attendance and participation in weekly sections, taught by Terry Peterson, are **mandatory**. The assigned readings should be completed by each section meeting. Students should come to section prepared for an in-depth and critical discussion of the reading. Honors students, who will be meeting with Mr. Boswell, will have some additional reading and writing assignments. There will be one two hour final examination, one in-class map quiz, and three 1 sentence summaries of arguments due in section. In addition, all students are required to write one five page paper, and two six page papers. Essay topics will be distributed in advance; papers require no outside research and will be based on class readings.

**Movies:** We will be screening two movies on two Monday evenings (outside of class time). Jean Renoir's La Grande illusion (Sept 21) and Gillo Pontecorvo's Battle of Algiers (Nov 16). Mark your calendars!

**Credits:** This is a 4 credit course. If you signed up for 3 credits, please add an additional credit.

**Grading:** 25% of your grade will be determined by your participation in section, the one sentence summaries, and the map quiz. Students who rarely come to section will fail this component of the class. The final exam will count for 20% of the grade. The five page paper will be 15% of your grade and each of the 6 page papers will count for 20%.

**Plagiarism:** We expect you to hand in your own work, and not to borrow sentences or sentence fragments from books, articles, or the web. In other words, all your sentences should be of your own making (if you use more than three successive words from a book, you should put them in quotation marks). You should take the time to familiarize yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism which is available at: <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html> and check out the Writing Center's excellent tips of quoting and paraphrasing sources: ([http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA\\_plagiarism.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html)). Students who plagiarize put themselves at risk of failing the class.

Books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and are also on 3 hour reserve in Helen C. White library. Some of the books have been translated from the French, and those of you with a good knowledge of *la langue française* may want to read in their original version (copies available at Memorial Library). I have listed weekly readings from the Rod Kedward textbook (France and the French) to enable you to keep up with lectures; by and large, the Kedward readings will not be discussed in section. A short reader will also be available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center.

I will hold office hours on Tuesday between 4 and 6. You can also speak with me after class or send me an email to set up an alternative meeting time.

### Required Books

Henri Barbusse, Under Fire (Penguin Books) [*Le Feu*]  
 Emilie Carles, A Life of her Own. A Countrywoman in Twentieth-Century France (Penguin, 1992) [*Une soupe aux herbes sauvages*]  
 Andrew Feenberg and Jim Freedman (eds.), When Poetry Ruled the Streets: The French May Events of 1968 (SUNY, 2001)  
 Robert Gildea, Marianne in Chains: Daily Life in the Heart of France during the German Occupation (Picador, 2004).  
 Fadela Amara, Breaking the Silence: French Women's Voices from the Ghetto (University of California Press, 2006) [*Ni putes, ni soumises*]  
 Irène Némirovsky, Suite Française (Vintage Books, 2007) [*Suite française*]  
 Henri Alleg, The Question (Bison Books, 2006) [*La question*]  
 Roderick Kedward, France and the French: A Modern History (Overlook Press, 2007)

### **Week 1** (September 3). Introduction

Begin reading Henri Barbusse, Under Fire

### **Week 2** (September 8, 10) The Great War

Reading: Henri Barbusse, Under Fire, chapters 1-12; Kedward, France and the French, 62-87

**Week 3** (September 15, 17) The Postwar Settlement and the 1920s

Reading: Henri Barbusse, Under Fire, finish book; Kedward, France and the French, 88-111.

**Due in section: in one sentence, of no more than 50 words, explain what the *poilus* in Under Fire are fighting for.**

**Week 4** (September 22, 24) French Fascism and the Popular Front

**Movie:** Jean Renoir dir., La Grande Illusion, Monday Sept 21, 7 pm. Room TBA

Reading: “Programme of the Popular Front,” (reader); Irène Némirovsky, Suite Française, 1-144; Kedward, France and the French, 167-218.

**Week 5.** (September 29, October 1) The Road to War and the Defeat of 1940

**\*\*\* Five Page Paper Due in Class Tuesday September 29 \*\*\***

Reading: Irène Némirovsky, Suite Française, 145-300 [I encourage you to read beyond p. 300 and finish the book]; Kedward, France and the French, 219-44

**Week 6** (October 6, 8) Vichy France

Reading: Robert Gildea, Marianne in Chains, 1-115; Kedward, France and the French, 245-71

**Week 7** (October 13, 15) The Liberation and the New Regime

Reading: Robert Gildea, Marianne in Chains, 209-90; 317-47 ; Kedward, France and the French, 272-309

**Due in section: In one sentence, of no more than 50 words, explain why Gildea argues the French were “in between” during the German Occupation.**

**Week 8** (October 20, 22) Intellectuals and Decolonization

Reading: Tony Judt, Past Imperfect: French Intellectuals, 1944-56 (Reader)

**Week 9** (October 27, 29) The Algerian Crisis and the Fifth Republic

Reading: Henri Alleg, The Question, 33-96; Kedward, France and the French, 310-48

**\*\*\* Six Page Paper Due in Class Tuesday October 27 \*\*\***

**Week 10** (November 3, 5) Charles de Gaulle and 1968

Andrew Feenberg and Jim Freedman, When Poetry Ruled the Streets, 3-30, 73-121; Kedward, France and the French, 384-431.

**Week 11** (November 10, 12) The Consumer Society and the Common Market

Reading: Reading: Andrew Feenberg and Jim Freedman, When Poetry Ruled the Streets, 33-66, 123-184.  
Begin reading Emilie Carles, A Life of Her Own

**Week 12** (November 17, 19) Rural Society and Immigrants

**Movie:** Gillo Pontecorvo, dir., The Battle of Algiers, Monday Nov 16, 7 pm, room TBA

Reading: Emilie Carles, A Life of her Own. A Countrywoman in Twentieth-Century France (entire book)

**Due in section: In one sentence, of no more than 50 words, explain why Emilie Carles became a pacifist.**

**Week 13** (November 24) Women

Reading: Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex (reader)

**Thanksgiving (Nov 26)**

**Week 14** (December 1, 3) Religion and the Troublesome Memory of the Past

Reading: Fadela Amara, Breaking the Silence, 35-102 ; Kedward, France and the French, 551-69.

**\*\*\* Six Page Paper Due in Class Tuesday December 1 \*\*\***

**Week 15** (December 8, 10) François Mitterrand, Socialism, and the Rise of the Extreme Right

Reading: Fadela Amara, Breaking the Silence, 105-168; Jim Wolfreys, “Neither Right Nor Left? Towards an Integrated Analysis of the Front National,” (Reader); Kedward, France and the French, 476-508.

**Week 16** (December 15). Nicolas Sarkozy and France's Twenty First Century

**FINAL EXAMINATION: Sunday December 20, 10:05 AM**