

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester II, 1986-87

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 years of the Socialist government 1981-1986 are analyzed at some length. Similarly, attention is given to the legislative victory of the Right in March 1986 and its implications for the presidential election of 1988. France is approaching the bicentennial of the French Revolution. This anniversary invites consideration of the revolutionary heritage, its heirs and the disinherited in French society in the nearly 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

- Wright, Gordon. France in Modern Times (3rd edit., 1981), W.W. Norton.
Nizan, Paul. Antoine Saint-Simon, PB 1096 Monthly Review.
Celine, Louis-Ferdinand. Journey to the End of the Night. NDP84 New Directions.
Malraux, Andre. Man's Fate, V-479-Vin Randou.
Sartre, J. P. The Wall, NDP 272.
Bloch, M. Strange Defeat, Norton.
Camus, Albert. The Rebel, Vin 30.
Wylie, Laurence. Village in the Vaucluse, Harvard 471.
DeBeauvoir, Simone. Second Sex, Vintage.