

University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Department of History
 Semester II, 1992-93

History 349
 Tu-Th 1-2:15

Laird Boswell
 5126 Humanities
 263-1805

Contemporary France, 1914 to the Present

This course will analyze key issues in contemporary French history from the outbreak of World War I to the present. Particular attention will be placed on the interplay between political, social and cultural developments. Themes 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 Community -- as well as broader themes concerning the changing nature of French society, the disappearance of the peasantry, and the role of women in politics.

Requirements: One midterm examination and one final. A paper is also required: 4-6 pages for 3 credit students; 9-11 pages for 4 credit students. Students are required to do the readings and participate in class discussions. I will also schedule a number of optional discussion sections where we will examine the readings in greater detail -- times will be announced early in the semester. Grading will be based on class participation, the paper and the examinations. Books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and are also on 3 hour reserve in Helen C. White library.

Required Books

James F. Millan. Twentieth-Century France. Politics and Society (London: Edward Arnold, 1992)

Jean-Jacques Becker, The Great War and the French People (Oxford: Berg Publishers, 1985)

Jean-Paul Sartre, The Reprieve (New York: Vintage Books)

Marc Bloch, Strange Defeat (New York: W. W. Norton, 1968)

Robert Faston, Vichy France. Old Guard and New Order (New York: Columbia University Press, 1982)

Emilie Carles, A Life of her Own. A Countrywoman in Twentieth-Century France (New York: Penguin Books)

Henri Mendras and Alistair Cole, Social Change in Modern France. Towards a Cultural Anthropology of the Fifth Republic (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991)

Richard Bernstein, Fragile Glory. A Portrait of France and the French (New York: Knopf, 1990)

Week 1. Introduction and the Origins of the Great War

Reading: James F. McMillan, Twentieth-Century France. Politics and Society 1898-1991, pp. 41-61.

Jean-Jacques Becker, The Great War and the French People, 3-102.

Week 2. The Great War and its Consequences

Reading: Becker, The Great War and the French People, 103-149; 195-196; 205-248; 251-301; 323-327.

McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 65-88.

Week 3. French Fascism and the Crisis of the 1930s

Reading: McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 89-111.

Begin reading Jean-Paul Sartre, The Reprieve [Le sursis for those of you who might want to read it in French].

Week 4. The Popular Front and the late 1930s

Reading: Jean-Paul Sartre, The Reprieve (finish book).

McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 112-123.

Week 5. From Defeat to Vichy

Reading: Marc Bloch, Strange Defeat (entire book).

Begin reading Robert Paxton, Vichy France, pp. 4-50.

McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 124-131.

Week 6. Resistance, Liberation, and the New Regime

Reading: Robert Paxton, Vichy France, pp. 51-185; 330-383.

McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp.135-152.

Week 7. Intellectuals in the Post War Period

MIDTERM. THURSDAY MARCH 4.

Week 8. SPRING BREAK

Week 9. Decolonization and de Gaulle

Reading: McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 153-167.

Week 10. The Fifth Republic and May 68

Reading: McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, pp. 168-203.

Henri Mendras, Social Change in Modern France, pp. 91-142

Week 11. The Common Market and the Economy

Reading: Henri Mendras, Social Change in Modern France, pp. 1-48.

Week 12. Rural and Urban Social Change

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

Week 13. Politics and Religion

Reading: Mendras, Social Change in Modern France, pp. 51-90.

Begin reading Richard Bernstein, Fragile Glory. A Portrait of France and the French.

*** PAPER DUE IN CLASS THURSDAY APRIL 15 ***

Week 14. Women and Immigrants

Reading: Mendras, Social Change in Modern France, pp. 145-196.

Continue reading Bernstein, Fragile Glory.

Week 15. Culture and the Politics in the 1980s

Reading: McMillan, Twentieth-Century France, 204-233.

Bernstein, Fragile Glory, finish book.

Week 16. The Rise of the Extreme Right

Reading: Mendras, Social Change in Modern France, pp. 199-246.