

HIST 337: France
1870 – Present
(Fall Term 2007)

Tuesday, Thursday 2:00 – 3: 20 PM
Room 185 Lillis

CRN 15381, 4 credits

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-4:30 pm and by appointment [Note: Available also on Thursdays after class except for days of department meetings]

This course surveys the history of France from 1870 to the present. While emphasizing political and social developments, the course will also give concentrated attention to certain topics, such as French colonialism in Indochina, the French experience of the Second World War, and various topics in postwar France. Cultural themes will be introduced but will not be a central focus of the course.

Requirements

Students are responsible for reading all of the assigned readings on the syllabus on time, and for all material presented in class, both lecture and discussion material. Examinations will address both assigned readings and the material of lectures and discussions.

The **course grade** will be determined as follows:

- Two papers, due dates of which are indicated on the syllabus: 50% [see details below]
- Mid-term examination: 20%
- Final examination: 30%

Distinctly good performance in class discussion may contribute to enhancement of the course grade in certain cases. In addition significant improvement in performance within each major category of requirements (second paper as compared with first, final exam as compared with mid-term) will be considered in assessing the grade in each category; in some instances the better performance will count more heavily than indicated by the above percentages.

Course Papers

Two of these are required. The papers will be weighted respectively: first paper 20%, second paper 30%. Details for each paper are as follows.

First Paper: Due November 1

This paper is to focus on one book chosen from the “Select Bibliography” at the end of the McMillan book for topics relating to 1898-1914 (pp. 235-240) or to 1914-1918 (pp. 240-243). The book chosen may not be a general survey, a historical or biographical dictionary, or a similar work designed primarily for broad overview or reference, but must be a full-length study of a particular issue or event or individual. An additional list of select books for this paper will be distributed in class. The paper must be based on reading the entire book chosen. The required **length** of this **first paper** is: **5-7 pages (double-spaced, 12-point type), or 1500-2100 words.**

You may take any one of the following approaches in your paper. Do not merely summarize the content of the book. This paper requires independent intellectual investment on your part; it is not a book report.

- State the main thesis or argument of the book, and discuss that thesis or argument with specific examples. Give a sense of the author’s logic in the development of the thesis or argument, and provide a close and detailed discussion of at least three specific examples or parts of the book that develop that thesis or argument in particular ways. Your paper must demonstrate both an understanding of the logic of the argument or analysis presented, and detailed familiarity with three instances given in the book that bear out, illustrate, or prove the argument.
- Select one major sub-theme of the book, and write a closely argued essay, including both analysis and detailed examples, that elaborates on that sub-theme. The theme need not involve the central argument of the book, but should reference analysis or details from various parts of the book, not only the part where the sub-theme is presented. This approach to the paper enables you to focus your discussion on one aspect of the book, but that focus must also demonstrate wide-ranging familiarity with other aspects or parts of the book as well.
- Write a critical analysis of the content of the book – of its argument or thesis, or of its supporting evidence – that makes extensive use of what you have learned about the subject from other reading and from lectures in the course, to support your critique. Your essay must demonstrate a close familiarity with both argument and detail from the book, and an intelligent assessment based on your readings and lecture material from the course.

A book other than one identified in the McMillan “Select Biography” or in the list distributed in class may be proposed to the instructor. Only with the instructor’s written permission may this book be used for this assignment. The request must be made in

writing or through e-mail **by October 18 at the latest**. The request must include complete publication details --- author, title, publisher, date of publication – AND a photocopy or electronic copy (.pdf format, sent as an e-mail attachment) of the book’s table of contents. No request will be considered after October 18. The instructor will respond to the request soon after it is made. Only with the instructor’s approval of the request communicated by e-mail or in writing will the book be acceptable for this assignment in lieu of a book chosen from the “Select Bibliography” and or distributed list.

One question on the mid-term examination will ask for the author, title and a one-paragraph statement of the central argument, thesis, or description of the main content of the book you choose for the paper. That book must therefore **be read before** the mid-term examination.

Second Paper: Due November 29

This paper will be more like a research paper. **At least 3 sources** must be used, **one** of which must be **book length**. That book length source may NOT be a book assigned on the syllabus of required readings (such as the books by Paxton or Cooper). The other two sources may be books, chapters from books, or scholarly articles, either articles in edited collections of essays in a book or articles from a scholarly journal. One of these other two sources may be a book assigned on the syllabus. No web-based (internet) sources qualify for any of these 3 sources, although web-based materials may be consulted for reference or for additional research material. The **length** of the paper must be **10-12 pages (double-spaced, 12-point type), or 3000-3600 words**.

The choice of the 3 sources is your own, but in all cases the sources must be written for a scholarly audience and purpose; popular works for general audience and entertainment purposes are not acceptable. The topic of the paper is to be chosen from the following broad areas; the exact topic within each area is of your design, based on your sources.

- 1) France during the Second World War: Experience and Historical Memory
- 2) French Colonialism and De-colonization (for any part of the entire period of the course)
- 3) A theme relating to any one or several of the documents in Stovall, *France since the Second World War*. For example, an acceptable theme related to Document 7, “On the Oppression of Women,” would include any of the following: French feminism, the condition of French women, French women intellectuals, all in the period since 1945.

Consult the instructor if you are not sure whether the topic you wish to choose for your paper corresponds to any of the above topical areas (1), (2), or (3) .

For topical areas (1) and (2), suggested readings will be provided by the instructor. These are intended as guides to your further search for sources, not as required for the paper or as the only possible sources for the topical area.

Examinations

There will be a **mid-term examination**, in class, on Thursday, **October 25**, and a **final examination on Tuesday, December 4, at 1:00 pm**. The mid-term examination will be based on all assigned readings and all lecture material through Week 4. The final examination, two hours in length, will be based on all assigned readings and lecture material for the entire term, although readings and lectures following the mid-term exam will be emphasized. Study guides will be distributed prior to each exam.

Books and Other Readings

The main assigned readings for the course will be taken from the following books:

- James F. McMillan, *Twentieth Century France* (Arnold 1992)
- Nicola Cooper, *France in Indochina: Colonial Encounters* (Berg 2001)
- Robert O. Paxton, *Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order 1940-1944* (Columbia 2001)
- Tyler Stovall, *France since the Second World War* (Longman 2002)

Additional readings are available on *electronic reserve*.

REQUIRED READINGS

Week 1 (Sept 25, 27): The Third Republic

- Gordon Wright, *France in Modern Times* (4th edition), chs. 18-19 (pp. 211-252) [**electronic reserve**]

Week 2 (Oct 2, 4): The *Belle Epoque*

- McMillan, *Twentieth Century France*, chs. 1-6 (pp. 3-61)
- Cooper, *France in Indochina*, Introduction and chs. 1-2 (pp. 1-42)

Week 3 (Oct 9, 11): World War I and Its Aftermath

- McMillan, *Twentieth Century France*, chs. 7-9 (pp. 65-100)

Week 4 (Oct 16, 18): Depression Era and Popular Front

- McMillan, *Twentieth Century France*, chs. 10-11 (pp. 101-123)
- Cooper, *France in Indochina*, chs. 3-5 and Conclusion to Part I (pp. 43-111)

Week 5 (Oct 23, 25): Second World War – Part I

- McMillan, *Twentieth Century France*, chs. 12-13 (pp. 124-144)
- Paxton, *Vichy France*, The 2 Introductions, Prologue and ch. I (pp. ix-xl, 3-135)

OCTOBER 25: MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Week 6 (Oct 30, Nov 1): Second World War – Part II: Vichy France

- Paxton, *Vichy France*, chs. II - V (136-383)

NOVEMBER 1: FIRST PAPER DUE

Week 7 (Nov 6, 8): Liberation, Fourth Republic and Postwar

- McMillan, *Twentieth Century France*, chs. 14-15 (pp. 145-162)
- Stovall, *France since the Second World War*, chs. 1-4 (pp. 3-62); Documents 1-2, 4, 8-10 (pp. 109-111, 113-114, 118-124)
- Cooper, *France in Indochina*, Introduction to Part II, chs. 6-8, and Conclusion to Part II (pp. 115-173)

Week 8 (Nov 13, 15): Fifth Republic

- McMillan, *Twentieth Century France*, chs. 16-18 (pp.163-184)
- Cooper, *France in Indochina*, Introduction to Part III, chs. 9-11, and Conclusion to Part III (pp. 177-220)
- Stovall, *France since the Second World War*, Documents 11-14 (pp, 124-131)

Week 9 (Nov 20): Fifth Republic After DeGaulle; France's Intellectuals

- McMillan, *Twentieth Century France*, ch. 19 (pp.185-203)
- Stovall, *France since the Second World War*, ch. 5 (pp. 63-79); Documents 3, 5-7,15 (pp. 111-112, 114-118, 131-132)

Week 10 (Nov 27, 29): Mitterrand Era

- McMillan, *Twentieth Century France*, ch. 20 and Afterword (pp.204-233)
- Stovall, *France since the Second World War*, chs. 6-7 (pp. 80-106); Documents 16-19 (pp. 133-138)

NOVEMBER 29: SECOND PAPER DUE

DECEMBER 4 (Tuesday), 1:00 – 3:00 pm : FINAL EXAMINATION