TWENTIETH-CENTURY FRANCE

This course will explore central issues in the history of France from the late nineteenth century to the first decades of the Fifth Republic. We begin with an examination of the Dreyfus Affair, an extraordinary national convulsion over anti-Semitism and a miscarriage of justice that left a powerful legacy for the rest of the twentieth century. We then turn to the First World War, giving special attention to its effects on the economy, government, social classes, and the relationship between men and women, and between colonial peoples and the French empire. Our focus then shifts to the 1930s, when the country was shaken by the Great Depression, the rise of political extremism, and the struggle to forge a “popular front” against fascism. We then spend several weeks exploring the Second World War, its anticipation, the French defeat of 1940, the Occupation, Resistance, Liberation, and postwar reconstruction amid the early years of the Cold War. The Second World War also had an enormous impact on the empire. We turn our attention to the wars over decolonization after 1945, especially in Algeria. The course concludes with a focus on Gaullism, the rebellion of May 1968, postcolonial immigration, the rise of the anti-immigrant National Front, and controversies over gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and religion in the final decade of the century.

Although the course is organized around a chronological examination of the political history of France, we will stress social, cultural and economic history as well. After all, the century of total wars also brought France its period of most rapid social and economic change. We will investigate issues that call for crossing the usual boundaries between these several kinds of history. We will also repeatedly consider French developments within three wider international contexts: Europe, the French empire, and trans-Atlantic relations.

The class will meet weekly for a 50-minute lecture, followed by two discussion sections of approximately two hours (one for undergraduates, taught by Kathryn Kleppinger, the other for graduate students, taught by Herrick Chapman). Because this is mainly a discussion course, its quality depends on everyone preparing the material and participating in class. Two papers are also required. The first will address the reading for one week during the course. This short analytical paper should be five to six pages long.
The final paper (due May 8) should be twelve to fifteen pages on a topic of your own choosing. Grading in the course will be as follows:

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Articles and documents for required reading are available on Blackboard. Books for required reading are available for purchase at the NYU Bookstore and are on reserve at Bobst Library and in the salle de lecture at the Institute of French Studies. These books include:


**Class Schedule**

**Week 1 (Jan. 20) – Introduction**

Required:


Recommended:

Sanford Elwitt, *The Making of the Third Republic*.
William Irvine, *The Boulanger Affair Reconsidered*.

**Week 2 (Jan. 27) – The Dreyfus Affair**

*Popkin, ch. 20-21.*  
*Michael Burns, ed., *France and the Dreyfus Affair*.  

Recommended:

Jean-Denis Bredin, *The Affair: The Case of Alfred Dreyfus*.  
Michael Burns, *Dreyfus: A Family Affair, 1789-1945*.  
Norman Kleeblatt, ed., *The Dreyfus Affair*.  
Edward Berenson, *The Trial of Madame Caillaux*.  
Philip Nord, *Paris Shopkeepers and the Politics of Resentment*.  
Roger Shattuck, *The Banquet Years*.  

**Week 3 (Feb. 3) – The First World War**

*Popkin chs. 22-24.*  
*Leonard V. Smith, Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, and Annette Becker, *France and the Great War, 1914-1918*.*  

Recommended:

Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, *Men at War, 1914-1918: National Sentiment and Trench Journalism in France during the First World War*.  
Leonard V. Smith, *Between Mutiny and Obedience: The Case of the French Fifth Infantry Division during World War One*.  
Laura Lee Downs, *Manufacturing Inequality: Gender Division in the French and British Metalworking Industries, 1914-1939*.
Essays by Michelle Perrot and Steven C. Hause in *Behind the Lines: Gender and the Two World Wars,* ed. by Margaret Randolph Higonnet et al.
Françoise Thébaud, *La Femme au temps de la guerre de 14.*
Gregory Mann, *Native Sons: West African Veterans and France in the Twentieth Century.*

**Week 4 (Feb. 10) – Social and Culture Change in “Greater France” in the 1920s**

**Required:**

*Popkin, ch. 24-25.
*Elizabeth Ezra, “Colonialism Exposed,” in *The Colonial Unconscious.*

**Recommended:**

Essays by Michelle Perrot and Steven C. Hause in *Behind the Lines: Gender and the Two World Wars,* ed. by Margaret Randolph Higonnet et al.
Françoise Thébaud, *La Femme au temps de la guerre de 14.*


**Week 5 (Feb. 17) – Fascism and the Right**


Recommended:


Philippe Burrin, *La Dérive fasciste: Doriot, Déat, Bergery, 1933-1945.*


**Week 6 (Feb. 24) - The Popular Front**

Required:


Recommended:

Siân Reynolds, France Between the Wars: Gender and Politics.
Jean Lacouture, Léon Blum.
Tony Judt, Marxism and the French Left.
Eugen Weber, The Hollow Years: France in the 1930s.
Ingo Kolbloom, La Revanche des patrons: Le Patronat français face au front populaire.

**Week 7 (March 3) – Vichy’s National Revolution and Life in Occupied France**

Required:

*Popkin, ch. 27.
*Philippe B Burrin, France under the Germans: Collaboration and Compromise.
*Philippe Pétain’s speeches of 17 June 1940.
**“Marshall Pétain and the ‘New Order’,” Foreign Affairs 19, 3 (April 1941).
*Texts of Vichy laws regarding the status of Jews.
*Selections from *France During the German Occupation, 1940-1944* (Stanford: The Hoover Institution, 1957), a collection of materials gathered by René Chambrun, Pierre Laval’s son-in-law (including Hubert Lagardelle on labor and René Bousquet on the police).


*Film: Claude Chabrol, “L’Oeil de Vichy” (“The Eye of Vichy”)

Recommended:

On the defeat of 1940:

Marc Bloch, *Strange Defeat*.
Arthur Koestler, *Scum of the Earth*.
Jean-Baptiste Duroselle, *La Décadence, 1932-1939*.
Andrew Shennan, *The Fall of France, 1940*.
Carole Fink, *Marc Bloch: A Life in History*.
Julian Jackson, *The Fall of France: The Nazi Invasion of 1940*.

On the Vichy regime and the Occupation:

Robert O. Paxton, *Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order*.
Julian Jackson, *France: The Dark Years, 1940-44*.
Robert Gildea, *Marianne in Chains: Daily Life in the Heart of France During the German Occupation*.
Marc Olivier Baruch, *Servir l’Etat français: L’Administration en France de 1940 à 1944*.
Francine Muel-Dreyfus, *Vichy et l’éternel féminin*.
On Vichy and the Holocaust:

Renée Poznanski, Jews in France during World War II.
Susan Zuccotti, The Holocaust, the French, and the Jews.
Sarah Kofman, Rue Ordener, rue Labat.
Irène Némirovsky, Suite Française.

Week 8 (March 10) – Resistance

Required:

*Popkin, chs. 28-29.
*Charles De Gaulle’s speeches of 18 June 1940, 6 June 1944, and 25 August 1944.
*Marc Bloch, Strange Defeat, 126-78 (“A Frenchman Examines His Conscience”)
*Julian Jackson, France: The Dark Years, 1940-1944, 475-405.
**“France’s Uncensored Press” (excerpts from Resistance newspapers).
*Jean-Paul Sartre, “The Republic of Silence.”

Recommended:

Lucie Aubrac, *Outwitting the Gestapo.*
Daniel Cordier, *Jean Moulin: La République des catacombs.*
Optional film: Marcel Ophul’s film “The Sorrow and the Pity.”

**Week 9 (March 24) - Liberation**

**Required:**

*Albert Camus, *Camus at Combat,* selected pages.
*Ronald Aronson, *Camus and Sartre: The Story of a Friendship and the Quarrel that Ended It.* Ch. 2.
*Charles De Gaulle’s speech of 2 February 1945. (See from previous week’s documents on Blackboard.)

**Recommended:**

Alice Kaplan, The Collaborator: The Trial and Execution of Robert Brasillach.
Marguerite Duras, The War.

**Week 10 (Mar. 31) – Postwar France as a New Society?**

**Required:**

*Popkin, ch. 30.
*Charles de Gaulle, Memoirs of Hope: Renewal and Endeavor, 3-36.
*Georges Perec, Things, selected pages.

*Film: Gillo Pontecorvo, “The Battle of Algiers”

**Recommended:**

Simone de Beauvoir, The Mandarins.
Richard Kuisel, Seducing the French: The Dilemma of Americanization.
Richard Jobs, Riding the New Wave: Youth and the Rejuvenation of France after the Second World War.
Sylvie Chaperon, Les Années Beauvoir.
Deirdre Bair, Simone de Beauvoir: A Biography.
Gisèle Sapiro, La Guerre des écrivains 1940-1953.
Simone de Beauvoir, America Day by Day.
Frank Costigliola, France and the United States: The Cold Alliance since World War II.
Gabrielle Hecht, The Radiance of France: Nuclear Power and National Identity after World War II.

**Week 11 (April 7) – The Algerian War and Decolonization**


Recommended:

Charles Robert Ageron, Modern Algeria: A History from 1830 to the Present.
James D. Le Sueur, Uncivil War: Intellectuals and Identity Politics during the Decolonization of Algeria.
Irwin M. Wall, France, the United States, and the Algerian War.
Djamila Amrane, Des femmes dans la guerre d’Algérie: entretiens.
Albert Camus, *Resistance, Rebellion and Death*.
Benjamin Stora, *Histoire de l’Algérie coloniale (1830-1954)*.
Miles Kahler, *Decolonization in Britain and France: The Domestic Consequences of International Relations*.
Henri Alleg, *The Question*.
Albert Camus, *The First Man*.
Benjamin Stora, *La Gangrène et l’oubli: La mémoire de la guerre d’Algérie*.

**Week 12 (April 14) – The Rebellion of May ‘68**

*Popkin, chs. 31-32.*
*Andrew Feenberg and Jim Freedman, eds., When Poetry Ruled the Streets: The French May Events of 1968.*

Recommended:

Arthur Marwick, *The Sixties: Cultural Revolution in Britain, France, Italy and the U.S.*
Hervé Hamon and Patrick Rotman, *Génération*, 2 volumes.
Raymond Aron, *The Elusive Revolution*.
Alain Touraine, *The May Movement*. 
Kristin Ross, May’68 and Its Afterlives.
Robert Linhart, The Assembly Line.

**Week 13 (April 21) – Immigration and the Rise of the National Front**

**Required:**

*Popkin, ch. 33-34.
*Françoise Gaspard, A Small City in France: A Socialist Mayor Confronts Neo-Fascism.

*Film: Mathieu Kassovitz, “La Haine”

**Recommended:**

Yvan Gastaut, L’Immigration et l’opinion et France sous la Ve République.
Nonna Mayer, La Boutique contre le centre.
Peter Fysh and Jim Wolfreys, The Politics of Racism in France.
Alec G. Hargreaves, Immigration, “Race” and Ethnicity in Contemporary France.
Harvey G. Simmons, The French National Front: The Extremist Challenge to Democracy.
Miriam Feldblum Reconstructing Citizenship: The Politics of Nationality Reform and Immigration in Contemporary France.
Mehdi Charef, Tea in the Harem.
Week 14 (April 28) – Republicanism and the Politics of Difference

Required:

* Diam (song lyrics)

Recommended:

Françoise Gaspard, Claude Servan-Schreiber, and Anne Le Gall, eds., *Au pouvoir, citoyennes!: liberté, égalité, parité.*
Philippe Bataille and Françoise Gaspard, *Comment les femmes changent la politiqie: et pourquoi les hommes résistent.*
Toril Moi, ed., *French Feminist Thought: A Reader.*
Gisèle Halimi, *Une embellie perdue.*
Dominique Frischer, *La revanche des misogynes: où en sont les femmes après trente ans de féminisme?*