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Fall 2006
HIST 314

SYLLABUS

Empire, War, and Modernity: France and the World in the 20th Century

Introduction

In the fall of 2005, people all over the world were shocked to see images broadcast on television of young men and boys in France—many of them born to parents of immigrant origin—burning cars and schools and battling with police on the outskirts of French cities. Coming on the heels of a decade-long debate about the place of Islam in French society, many have wondered whether the traditional French republican model of citizenship was adequate to deal with the problems faced by contemporary French society. This class will attempt to place the current French predicament in a broader historical context, by examining the nation's traumatic history in the 20th century, a period which encompasses the two world wars, the German occupation, and the difficult and often violent struggles that accompanied the loss of the French empire in the 1950s and early 1960s. Readings include autobiographies, novels and works of history written by people who lived in metropolitan France, as well as authors from former French colonies in Senegal and Algeria.

Readings

The following books are available for purchase at Shaman Drum bookshop:

Jeremy Popkin, *A History of Modern France* (Textbook).

[NOTE for next year: use Rod Kedward, *France and the French: La Vie en Bleu*]

Michael Burns, *France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Brief Documentary History*.

Louis-Ferdinand Celine, *Journey to the End of the Night*.

Vercors (pseud. Jean Bruller), *The Silence of the Sea: A Novel of French Resistance During World War II*.

Ousmane Sembene, *God's Bits of Wood*.

Mouloud Feraoun, *Journal, 1955-1962: Reflections on the French-Algerian War*.

Andrew Feenberg and Jim Freedman, *When Poetry Ruled the Streets: The French May Events of 1968*.

Françoise Gaspard, *A Small City in France*.

Films (Screenings outside of class TBA)

Grand Illusion, dir. Jean Renoir.

The Sorrow and the Pity, dir. Marcel Ophüls.

Hate, dir. Matheiu Kassovitz.

Requirements

1. Exams (50 percent of total grade): There will be a mid-term and a final exam. They are each worth 25 percent of the final grade. The final is not cumulative and will cover only material from the second half of the course, except for one synthetic essay question.

NOTE: ALL STUDENTS MUST PURCHASE TWO LARGE FORMAT BLUEBOOKS FOR EACH EXAM. ALL BLUEBOOKS WILL BE COLLECTED AND REDISTRIBUTED AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH EXAM.

2. Final Paper (25 percent of total grade): Every student will be expected to write a 15 page paper on a related topic of their choosing. The paper should be double-spaced, paginated, and either typed or printed from a computer. It should have a title-page, a complete bibliography, and all references to the ideas of other scholars should be clearly documented in either footnotes or endnotes. In addition, there are three requirements that every student must fulfill in completing this assignment:

- Every student will meet at least once with the professor during office hours by the end of Week 9 to discuss possible topics for this paper. By this date, I also expect you provide me with a written paragraph describing your intended paper topic and several sources that you intend to use.
- A typed provisional bibliography of at least 3 books and 3 scholarly articles is due by the end of Week 10. If you are unsure about bibliographic form please consult a reference work such as *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- When you hand in the paper, please place it in a thick manila envelope together with all your notes and rough drafts. I want to see EVERYTHING, including references to books you decided not to use, library computer printouts, note cards, jotted outlines, revised outlines, final outlines. PLEASE NOTE: THOSE WHO HAND IN A PAPER WITHOUT NOTES WILL RECEIVE NO CREDIT FOR THE ASSIGNMENT. The purpose of this requirement is to prevent academic dishonesty, so document your work carefully, and keep all the evidence! If you want your paper returned to you after the end of the semester, put your address and the appropriate postage on the envelope before handing it in.

3. Attendance and Participation (25 percent of final grade): The study of history is based upon the frank exchange of ideas and opinions, and cannot be reduced to the mere recitation of memorized facts. For this reason, I expect all students to attend all lectures and participate actively in discussion. If you are shy or uncertain about speaking in public, please come speak to me in my office hours about ways to overcome this reluctance. Remember, too, that one of the best ways you can contribute to a seminar is to ask a good question. Try and think of one or two questions to ask each day we have discussion, and don't worry if you can't answer them yourself.

5. Response Essays/Surprise Quizzes on Readings: At any given point during the semester, I might give a surprise quiz on the readings for that day or ask for a brief (10-15 minute) in-class essay in response to a question on the readings. These will not be difficult for anybody who has completed the reading assignment. The grades on these

quizzes will play a significant role in determining your grade for attendance and participation.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

Week 1 (Sept 4-8) Introduction

Reading: Popkin, *History of Modern France*, chapters 18-20.

Wednesday Lecture: France and the World in 1900.

Week 2. (Sept 11-15) The Early Third Republic and the Dreyfus Affair

Reading: Popkin, chapters 21.
Michael Burns, *France and the Dreyfus Affair*.

Monday Lecture: The Third Republic before WWI

Wednesday Discussion: The Dreyfus Affair.

Week 3. (Sept 18-22) World War I and the Sacred Union, 1914-1918

Reading: Popkin, chapter 22-23.
Louis-Ferdinand Celine, *Journey to the Edge of the Night* (first half).

Monday Lecture: The Origins of World War I

Wednesday Lecture: The French Empire at War

Week 4. (Sept 25-29) The Aftermath of the Great War, 1919-1929

Reading: Popkin, chapter 24.
Celine, *Journey to the Edge of the Night* (second half).

Monday Lecture: The Interwar Years

Wednesday Discussion: Celine.

Week 5. (Oct 2-6) The Popular Front and Defeat, 1929-1940

Reading: Popkin, chapters 25-26.
Film: *Grand Illusion*, dir. Jean Renoir.

Monday Lecture: The Popular Front.

Wednesday Discussion: *Grand Illusion*.

Week 6. (Oct 9-13) Vichy France, part I.

Reading: Popkin, chapter 27.
Film: *The Sorrow and the Pity*, dir. Marcel Ophuls.

Monday Lecture: The Collapse and the National Revolution.

Wednesday In-Class Screening: *The Sorrow and the Pity*, Part I.

Week 7. (Oct. 16-20). Vichy France, part II.

Reading: Popkin, chapter 28.
Vercors (pseud. Jean Bruller), *The Silence of the Sea*.

Monday NO CLASS. FALL STUDY BREAK
 Wednesday Discussion: *The Silence of the Sea* and *The Sorrow and the Pity*.

Week 8. (Oct. 23-27) The Twilight of the French Empire, 1945-1954

Reading: Popkin, chapter 29.

Monday MID-TERM EXAM. (Bring Your Own Blue Book).
 Wednesday Lecture: The French Union and the Crisis of Empire, 1945-1954

Week 9. (Oct. 30-Nov. 3) The Beginning of the Algerian Insurrection, 1954-1958

Reading: Popkin, chapter 30.
 Semebene Ousmane, *God's Bits of Wood*.

Monday Discussion: Ousmane.
 Wednesday Lecture: The Origins of the Algerian War of Independence.

Friday Paragraph describing final paper due by 4 pm in my mailbox in the History Mailroom opposite 1029 Tisch Hall). Deadline for meeting with professor to discuss final paper.

Week 10. (Nov. 6-10) Algerian Independence and the Fifth Republic, 1958-1962

Reading: Popkin, chapter 31.
 Mouloud Feraoun, *Journal 1955-1962: Reflections on the French-Algerian War*.

Monday: Lecture: French Decolonization and European Integration.
 Wednesday Discussion: Feraoun.

Friday Provisional bibliography for final paper due by 4 pm in my mailbox.

Week 11. (Nov. 13-17) May 1968 and the Apogee of Gaullism.

Reading: Popkin, chapter 32.
 A. Feenberg and J. Freedman, *When Poetry Ruled the Streets: The French May Events of 1968*.

Monday Lecture: Les Trentes Glorieuses and May 1968.
 Wednesday Discussion: Feenberg and Freedman, documents.

Week 12. (Nov. 20-24) The Post-Colonial Situation at Home

Reading: Popkin, ch. 33.
 Françoise Gaspard, *A Small City in France*, pp. 1-99.

Monday Lecture: The "Immigration" Debate in France.
 Wednesday Discussion: Gaspard.

Week 13. (Nov. 27-Dec.1) The 1980s: Generation Beur meets Generation Mitterand

Reading: Popkin, ch. 34.
Gaspard, *A Small City in France*, pp. 101-177.

Monday Lecture: Generation Beur, Mitterand, and the National Front.
Wednesday Discussion: Gaspard.

Week 14. (Dec. 4-Dec. 9) Revisiting Republican Citizenship in the 1990s

Film: *Hate*, dir. Mathieu Kassovitz.

Monday Lecture: Headscarves, Suburbs, and Universalism: French Citizenship in the 1990s.
Wednesday Discussion: *Hate*.

Week 15. (Dec. 11-13) France on Fire: The Fall of 2005 in the Banlieues

Readings TBA.

Monday Lecture: France on Fire.
Wednesday Conclusion and Review.

FINAL PAPER

Due in the box with my name on it in the History Dept Mailroom opposite 1029 Tisch Hall by Friday, December 15 at 5 pm

FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be held Monday, December 18, 1:30-3:30 pm, in our regularly scheduled classroom, 1250 USB.