

## HIST 354: HISTORY OF FRANCE, 1789-PRESENT



Gustave Caillebotte, *Paris Street in the Rain* (1877)

**Instructor: Prof. Steven E. Harris**

**University of Mary Washington – Fall Semester, 2012**

**This class meets T/TR at 2:00pm-3:15pm in Monroe 210**

**Office Hours: Tu/Th, 8:25am-9:25am; 10:55am-12:25pm; and by appointment**

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**Course blog: <http://modernfrance.umwblogs.org/>**

### **Course Description:**

This course examines the modern history of France from the revolutionary and Napoleonic eras to contemporary France's role in the European Union and globalization. Presently in its Fifth Republic since the Revolution of 1789, France has fundamentally reinvented its political system in vastly different ways in a struggle to resolve the unanswered questions of 1789 and meet new needs that arose on account of such broader European trends as industrialization, urbanization, and the competition for overseas colonies. The French state and its people have lived under monarchies, republics, and empires, as well as a commune, a regime that collaborated willingly with the Nazis, and now a supranational entity known as the European Union. France's social transformations have been equally dramatic as evidenced by the destruction of the ancien régime's system of social estates and the creation of urban social classes; the forging of a national identity in an age of empire building; and the influx of immigrants from that empire's overseas colonies in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this course, we will examine what it has meant to be "French" in the modern era through a variety of lenses ranging from legal definitions of nationality to cultural constructions in the postwar nexus of Franco-American filmmaking.

### **Course Credits, Goals, and Objectives:**

This course counts as a 300-level course for a major in History.

This course aims to teach students the fundamentals of historical analysis. As a course in the Department of History and American Studies, this course aims to teach the following skill sets:

1. Ability to analyze sources and arguments
2. Comprehension of historical process
3. Historical understanding of global processes.

### **Format of the Class and Preparation for Each Class:**

I will spend the first one half to two-thirds of each class lecturing on course topics. The remaining class time will be spent on class discussion of course topics and readings. To prepare for your exams and papers, take notes during lectures and discussions.

Attendance in this class is absolutely mandatory and crucial. For each class, you are expected to have read all the readings assigned for that day in order to discuss them in class. If you are having difficulty keeping up with the lectures, writing assignments, and readings, it is your responsibility to **develop better work and study skills**. See me for additional advice. I will offer such advice only if you demonstrate to me that you have made a real effort to work on the assignments and read all the materials thoroughly on your own, and have developed a plan for improving your work and study skills.

### **Course Assignments and Requirements:**

All students begin the class with a 0% grade. Your task is to earn a grade for each of the assignments and requirements, which together will determine your final grade.

1) Class participation: The quality of this class depends upon what each student will contribute to it, so your class participation is of paramount importance as we analyze and interpret the texts in this course. The following is the guideline for participation grades: A range (90-100%): student participates daily, shows that he/she reads all of the assigned readings, makes several comments and poses questions that are insightful and help guide discussion; B range (80-89%): student participates regularly, shows that he/she reads most of the readings, makes some comments/questions; C range (70-79%): student participates on occasion, may read some of the readings, makes little or no comments; D range (60-69%): student rarely participates and/or is disruptive in class; F (0%): student never participates in class.

2) Primary source paper: In this 2-3 page paper, you will analyze and interpret two primary sources pertaining to the French Revolution.

3) Midterm exam: covers all lectures, class discussions, and readings to date.

4) Term paper: In this 6-7 page paper, you will analyze and critique one of the assigned monographs, as well as its impact among scholars and the broader public.

5) Final exam: The final exam will be cumulative and will cover all lectures, class discussions, and readings in the entire course.

Numerical grades in this course correspond to the following letter grades: A (95-100); A- (90-94); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (60-66); F (59 and below).

Midterm Deficiency Report: You will receive a midterm deficiency report if you receive a C- or below on your participation grade, writing assignments, and/or the midterm exam before the deadline for these reports.

### **Relative Weight of Grades for the Course:**

Class participation:	15%
Primary source paper:	15%
Midterm exam:	20%
Term paper:	30%
Final exam:	20%

### **Legitimate Excuses for Missing Class and Turning Work in Late:**

Legitimate excuses include family emergencies, medical appointments, illness, religious holidays, and trips related to official student activities. Athletic practices never constitute a legitimate excuse for missing class. All excuses must be supported with documentary proof, such as a doctor's note, with the contact information of the person writing the excuse. In the event of a family emergency, such as a death in the family, contact the Office of Academic Affairs and ask them to contact me about the emergency.

If you miss class, miss an exam, or fail to turn something in on time and you have a legitimate excuse, do the following: give me the documentary proof explaining your absence or the reasons for which you turned something in late or missed an exam; stop by during office hours to discuss what you missed in class. Unless warranted by a legitimate excuse as defined above, there will be no extensions on assignments and exams may not be taken at a later date than originally scheduled.

If you miss class or fail to turn something in on time without a legitimate excuse, do not e-mail me to tell me this and do not ask me to explain to you over e-mail what you missed in class; I will not respond to such e-mails. Failure to take the midterm exam or final exam on the appointed day without a legitimate excuse will result in an F (0%) on that exam. For every day after a deadline that you turn work in late without a legitimate excuse, your grade on the assignment is dropped by a full letter grade until you reach an F (0%) on the assignment. Failure to complete any of the writing assignments by the exam day (even though you will receive a 0% on them) will result in an automatic F for the course.

### **Communication:**

Use e-mail to communicate with me about minor questions and administrative questions. Use formal forms of address, salutations, and good-byes, as well as proper spelling, grammar and punctuation, when writing e-mails to me. To discuss readings and course topics, questions about writing assignments, etc., stop by during office hours.

### **Honor Code:**

The Honor Code of the University of Mary Washington will be strictly enforced, as explained in the Honor Constitution. All violations of the Honor Code (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism on papers) will be immediately reported to the Honor Council.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

If you have a disability and require academic accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Resources (x1266). Upon obtaining an accommodation letter from this office, see me to establish the academic accommodation for you in this course. All information pertaining to your academic accommodation will be kept in the strictest confidence.

### **Additional Class Policies:**

- \* Electronic equipment must be turned completely off during class.
- \* Out of respect for your peers and your instructor, arrive to class on time. You must attend the entire class time in order to receive credit for participation for that day.
- \* This syllabus is subject to change exclusively at my discretion.

**Course Readings:**

The following required texts are available for purchase at the UMW bookstore. As noted in the schedule below, other readings are available on the course blog.

David Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2007).

Pierre Birnbaum, *The Anti-Semitic Moment: A Tour of France in 1898* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011).

Robert O. Paxton, *Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order, 1940-1944* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001).

Vanessa R. Schwartz, *It's So French! Hollywood, Paris, and the Making of Cosmopolitan Film Culture* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Emile Zola, *The Belly of Paris*, trans. Brian Nelson (Oxford: Oxford World's Classics, 2009).

**Other Recommended Resources:**

\* Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

\* A good dictionary of American English. I recommend Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, especially those editions that contain the etymologies of words.

\* A good grammar book. I recommend Patricia T. O'Conner, *Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2003).

**Course Schedule:**

August 28: Introduction: France in the Modern World  
\* French Revolution: Backgrounds and the Revolution (course blog)

**The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era**

August 30: \* Bell, *The First Total War* (Introduction, chapter 1)

September 4: \* Bell, *The First Total War* (chapters 2-3)  
\* French Revolution—The Revolution and Europe—The Emergency Republic—The Constitutional Republic—The Authoritarian Republic (course blog)  
\* Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (course blog)

September 6: \* Bell, *The First Total War* (chapter 4)  
\* Decree Establishing the Levée en Masse (course blog)

September 11: \* Bell, *The First Total War* (chapter 5-7)  
\* de Maistre, *Considerations on France* (course blog)

September 13: \* Bell, *The First Total War* (chapter 8 and epilogue)  
\* Constant, *Ancient and Modern Liberty Compared* (course blog)

### **Restoration and the July Monarchy**

September 18: \* Hazareesingh, “Napoleonic Memory in Nineteenth-Century France: The Making of a Liberal Legend” (course blog)

September 20: \* Kalman, “Sensuality, Depravity, and Ritual Murder: The Damascus Blood Libel and Jews in France” (course blog)

**September 24: Primary source paper due today**

### **Another Revolution, Another Napoleon: 1848 and the Second Empire**

September 25: \* Zola, *The Belly of Paris* (Introduction, chapters 1-2)

September 27: \* Zola, *The Belly of Paris* (chapter 3)

October 2: \* Zola, *The Belly of Paris* (chapters 4-6)

October 4: \* Moch and Fuchs, “Getting Along: Poor Women’s Networks in Nineteenth-Century Paris” (course blog)

October 9: \* Thompson, “Urban Renovation, Moral Regeneration: Domesticating the Halles in Second-Empire Paris” (course blog)

October 11: \* **Midterm Exam**

**October 13-16: Fall Break**

### **The Third Republic and the Paradoxes of French Nationality**

October 18: \* Birnbaum, *The Anti-Semitic Moment* (Introduction, chapter 1)

October 23: \* Birnbaum, *The Anti-Semitic Moment* (chapters 2-5)

October 25: \* Birnbaum, *The Anti-Semitic Moment* (chapters 6-7)

October 30: \* Birnbaum, *The Anti-Semitic Moment* (chapters 8-10, conclusion)

### **World War II and the Vichy Regime**

November 1: \* Paxton, *Vichy France* (Prologue and chapter 1)

November 6: \* Paxton, *Vichy France* (chapter 2)

November 8: \* Paxton, *Vichy France* (chapter 3)

November 13: \* Paxton, *Vichy France* (chapters 4-5)

### **Postwar France and the Fifth Republic**

November 15: \* Albert Camus, "Reflections on the Guillotine" (1957) (course blog)

**November 19: Term paper due today**

November 20: \* Schwartz, *It's So French!* (Introduction and chapter 1)

**November 22: Thanksgiving**

November 27: \* Schwartz, *It's So French!* (chapters 2-3)

November 29: \* Schwartz, *It's So French!* (chapter 4 and conclusion)

December 4: \* Viewing and discussion of *An American in Paris* (1951)

December 6: \* Viewing and discussion of *An American in Paris* (1951)

**Final Exam: Thursday, December 13, 3:30pm**