

**FREN 430: LA FRANCE D'AUJOURD'HUI**  
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH, FRANCOPHONE, AND ITALIAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
FALL 2017



Meeting: TR 1:00-2:15, WES 1045  
Instructor: Dr. Christine V. Bourgeois  
Office: 2059 Wescoe Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:00; Thursday 4:00-5:00 and by appointment  
Email address: [cbourgeois@ku.edu](mailto:cbourgeois@ku.edu)  
Students are encouraged to maintain regular contact with the instructor outside of class, during office hours, on appointment or by email.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class is intended to guide students through an advanced interdisciplinary study of the cultural, political, historical, and artistic profile of modern-day France, focused primarily on the period from 1939 to the present. In addition to assignments from the textbook, students will read and discuss texts of a variety of genres and traditions including poetry, memoires, novels, articles, essays, and historical analyses in order to gain a deep and nuanced appreciation of the cultural issues that have shaped, and are still shaping, present-day French culture.

The semester will be split into two parts. Part I (“La France 1939-1975: Le Déséquilibre du postmoderne”) will provide an introduction to the major historical and cultural issues that have shaped French culture. In this part of the course, we will come to know the people, narratives and philosophies of the recent past that have most significantly contributed to current notions of good government and national identity. Part II (“La France actuelle: un nouvel équilibre?”), will allow students to reexamine the knowledge gained in the first part of the course in the context of the cultural and political landscape of today’s France. This will allow students to formulate and answer a range of meaningful questions about the political, social, and cultural profile of modern-day French society.

## LEARNING GOALS

As an upper-level French class, the primary aim of reading and discussion will be to develop greater depth and breadth of understanding of contemporary France: the history that has shaped it, the challenges that face it, and the culture that it has produced. Nonetheless, the improvement of both your written and spoken French skills are also important goals in this course. Through in-class discussion, oral presentations, and written assignments, students will gain increased precision, accuracy, and style in their ability to discuss abstract ideas, express sophisticated interpretations and make persuasive and original arguments in French.

After having taken this class, students will be able to speak knowledgeably about some of the important individual actors in present-day French political and cultural settings as well as their predecessors in recent history. Students will develop greater understanding of the important political movements and philosophies that have impacted both these actors specifically and French cultural issues at large. Students will be able to accurately describe the broad geographical, cultural, and political profile of modern France and compare it meaningfully to both previous moments in French history and the more immediate experience of their cultures of origin.

**This course will satisfy the requirement for CORE Goal 4 (Learning Outcome 2):**

*Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to examine a variety of perspectives in the global community, distinguish their own cultural patterns, and respond flexibly to multiple worldviews.*

## REQUIRED TEXT

- Edmiston, William F & Annie Duménil. *La France contemporaine*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Cengage Learning, 2010
- Coursepack

**N.B.** Additional readings and assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Students must bring **printed** copies of these assignments to class with them. No personal computers or portable devices, especially cellular telephones, will be permitted in class without special permission. (See section on students with disabilities)

## FILMS

<i>Au Revoir Les Enfants</i> (Louis Malle, 1997)	Kanopy
<i>Le Bonheur</i> (Agnès Varda, 1965)	Kanopy
<i>La Bataille d'Alger</i> (Gillo Pontecorvo, 1966)	Kanopy
<i>La Haine</i> (Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995)	Kanopy
<i>Paris, je t'aime</i> (Création collective, 2006)	N/A
<i>Je suis Charlie</i> (Emmanuel Leconte et Daniel Leconte, 2015)	Netflix
<i>Entre les murs</i> (Laurent Cantet, 2008)	N/A
<i>2 Days in Paris</i> (Julie Delpy, 2007)	Kanopy

All films must be watched in their entirety **before** the class for which they appear on the syllabus.

\*N.B. The vast majority of films assigned for this class can be streamed through KU's subscription to Kanopy. To access Kanopy, go to the Library website and enter "Kanopy" into the search box. When you click on the link, you will be prompted to log in to with your KU username and password. You will then be able to stream the movie for free. The instructor will offer the possibility of a screening outside of class hours for any film not available through this service. Whether or not a screening will take place will be established by majority rule through a vote in the week prior to the date for which the film is assigned.

## EVALUATION

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation →	15%
Quizzes (3) →	20%
Midterm exam →	20%
In-Class Presentation →	20%
Final Exam* →	25%

\* The exam will be assessed for student outcomes using our departmental rubric for CORE Goal 4.2.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

### *Participation*

Active participation in classroom discussion is a vital part of any upper-level humanities class. As such, students in this class are expected to attentively and thoughtfully prepare all reading and writing assignments whether they are to be collected by the instructor or not. Assignments are designed specifically in order to develop the knowledge and ideas that will allow you to participate successfully in class. Failure to complete homework, whether it is collected or not, will result in a lowered participation grade.

All reading assignments are accompanied by a "Fiche de Lecture" which includes vocabulary and comprehension questions. You **MUST** complete the "Fiche de Lecture" **in writing** for every time one is assigned in order to prepare for discussion.

You will be graded on both the quantity and the quality of your participation in discussion and debate. This will include **2 short in class** presentations. Keep in mind that your willingness to share your thoughts with your classmates in both group work and classroom discussion is a basic expectation of the course.

You are responsible for, and may be tested on, all material presented in the context of the class including both at-home assignments and in-class presentations by the professor and by other students.

### *Attendance*

Attendance is compulsory at all class meetings. Students will, however be permitted up to three (3) unexcused absences. Beyond this, the student's **final** grade will be lowered by one

increment per absence (i.e. from an **-A** to a **+B** after the fourth absence, from a **+B** to a **-B** after the fifth and so on)

If you have a valid reason for being absent (i.e. religious observance, medical appointment, sporting commitment), you must discuss it with me *before* the class that you will be missing. Please note that absence from class, *even an excused absence*, **does not constitute an excuse from assigned work. If an assignment was due the day you are absent, you must still hand that assignment in to me by email or through a friend before the end of the class period.**

**If you need extra time on an assignment, you are expected to bring this up with me before the due date of the assignment.**

**You are responsible for making up any work you missed on the day of an absence.**

### ***Written Work***

Written assignments should be typewritten in 12 pt. Times New Roman font with 1" margins. Written assignments are to be **printed out and handed in, not emailed to the instructor** except in the case of absence.

All assignments in this class are to be written in French.

### ***Late Work***

Late work will not be accepted. It is the student's responsibility to discuss all problems with the instructor *before* the due date of an assignment.

All assignments including films, readings and papers are to be completed *before* the class for which they appear on the syllabus.

### ***In-Class Presentation***

Each student will be responsible for one in-depth presentation (10-12 minutes) over the course of the semester. Presentation topics will be selected by the student in consultation with the instructor and should represent an area, text or issue of particular interest to the student. Presentations should accomplish two major goals: (1) they should help the presenter expand on an issue connected with the theme of the class and (2) they should teach other students about an interesting or important issue in present-day French culture that would not otherwise be covered in the scope of the class. Presentation topics will be in sync with the themes and readings covered on the *Emploi du temps*.

Presentation dates should be selected by the end of the second week and communicated to the instructor. A list of broadly defined possible topics will be circulated the first day of class. Students should familiarize themselves with it **and be prepared to select a topic and date no later than August 31.**

Students may, with permission, work in groups of two. However, in this case, presentations will be expected to cover a wider scope and must last between 20 and 25 minutes.

**Quizzes**

Over the course of the semester, you will take **three (3)** short quizzes of approximately 30 minutes each. Quizzes will be made up of short answer and multiple-choice questions testing both knowledge and comprehension of the historical dates, individual figures, and complex situations discussed in class.

**Midterm Exam**

The Midterm will take the form of a closed-book in-class exam. This exam will be cumulative and will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and two essay questions. The Midterm will be cumulative. French dictionaries will be permitted.

**Final Exam**

A final examination will be administered during finals week. It will follow the same structure as the midterm.

**EMAIL AND BLACKBOARD**

I will keep in touch with you via email at your @ku.edu address. Students are expected to check this account regularly.

You are also encouraged to familiarize yourself with the course's Blackboard site. Should there be any changes to the syllabus, you will find an update version under the heading "Syllabus". All handouts, videos, images and other secondary material not available in print will be posted to the site under the heading "course materials".

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

For a class such as this, the wealth of additional resources is virtually endless. However, I specifically encourage you to check in on the French media at least once a week. Although failure to do so will not *negatively* impact your grade, a demonstration of familiarity with today's issues in French culture and politics will have a *positive* impact on your participation grade. Here are a few websites you might consult:

Daily Newspapers:

*Le Monde*: [www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)

*L'Express*: [www.lexpress.fr](http://www.lexpress.fr)

*Le Figaro*: [www.lefigaro.fr](http://www.lefigaro.fr)

News Magazines

*Le Nouvel Observateur*: [www.nouvelobs.com](http://www.nouvelobs.com)

*Libération*: [www.liberation.fr](http://www.liberation.fr)

*Le Point*: [www.lepoint.fr](http://www.lepoint.fr)

Television:

TV 5: [www.tv5.org](http://www.tv5.org)

**GRADING SCALE**

A	94%-100%	C	74%-77%
A-	90% - 93%	C-	70%-73%
B+	88% - 89%	D+	68%-69%
B	84%-87%	D	64%-67%
B-	80%-83%	D-	60%-63%
C+	78%-79%	F	0%-59%

Please note that **all course materials** (handouts, PowerPoint documents, review sheets, exams, etc.) **are for your personal use only in this class.** You may not distribute or sell them, post them on any websites, or use them for other purposes without departmental permission. **In addition, you may not use audio or video to record any class sessions** without the express permission of the instructor and department.

## DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

### *Plagiarism and Cheating*

**The department adheres strictly to the following policy on plagiarism and cheating:**

"Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses that should be brought to the attention of the Chairperson or Language Coordinator. Whenever a student is caught the instructor will inform the Chairperson of the Department, who-upon concurring with the instructor-will forward a 'CHARGE OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT FORM' to the College of Liberal Arts with a recommendation for the appropriate sanction"

### *Assistance with Assignments*

Students may use their textbooks, dictionaries, and grammar references in preparing any assignments. However, with the exception of help from the student's instructor and/or in-class activities such as peer editing, **any outside assistance** (that is, tutors, friends, native speakers, computer/internet translation programs, assignments submitted in previous courses, etc.) **is NOT allowed** on homework/assignments being turned in for a grade. **These things are considered cheating and will result in a grade of zero on the assignment, as well as a charge of academic misconduct, which may entail further sanctions.** The student should be certain that all of the work submitted in this course is his/her own.

### *About the use of translation programs*

The use of computer or on-line translation programs is **NOT permitted** in any French or Italian course and is considered cheating. As opposed to dictionaries and grammar references, these programs are not a learning tool because they simply provide a translation, rather than allowing you to choose among various words/tenses/etc. to come up with the best translation on your own. Moreover, translation programs produce bizarre and incorrect translations that are **notoriously easy to identify**. Students will learn far more by doing their own work than by risking serious academic consequences.

### *Grade definitions according to the University Senate rules and regulation*

- 2.2.1.1. The grade of A will be reported for achievement of outstanding quality.
- 2.2.1.2. The grade of B will be reported for achievement of high quality.
- 2.2.1.3. The grade of C will be reported for achievement of acceptable quality.
- 2.2.1.4. The grade of D will be reported for achievement that is minimally passing but at less than an acceptable quality.

Consult with individual teachers concerning the calculation of grades

### *Study time according to the University Senate rules and regulations*

"One semester hour means course work normally represented by an hour of class instruction and two hours of study a week for one semester, or an equivalent amount of work. The concept may vary according to the level at which instruction is offered."

### *Students with disabilities*

"Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can

discuss class accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate the educational opportunity."

The Department of French & Italian works closely with the Academic Achievement and Access Center to provide accommodations to students with learning and/or physical disabilities. The AAAC coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible: 22 Strong Hall; 785-864-2620 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://www.disability.ku.edu/>. Please also contact your instructor privately in regard to your needs in this course.

### ***Religious observances***

"Where examinations and tests other than final examinations conflict with religious observations of a generally recognized nature, a student under obligation to participate in such religious observances shall, upon request to the instructor involved, which shall be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled examination or test, be accorded the opportunity to take the examination or test at some other time not in conflict with his (or her) religious obligations."

### ***Attendance***

Attendance in language, literature, and culture classes is essential for mastering materials, improving communication skills, and participating in discussions. Consult with individual teachers for their specific policy on attendance and make-up work.

### ***Concealed-Carry***

Individuals who chose to carry concealed handguns are **solely responsible to do so in a safe and secure manner in strict conformity with state and federal laws and KU weapons policy**. Safety measures outlined in the KU weapons policy specify that a concealed handgun:

- Must be under the constant control of the carrier.
- Must be out of view, concealed either on the body of the carrier, or backpack, purse, or bag that remains under the carrier's custody and control.
- Must be in a holster that covers the trigger area and secures any external hammer in an un-cocked position
- Must have the safety on, and have no round in the chamber.



## EMPLOI DU TEMPS

### LA FRANCE 1939-1975 : LE DESEQUILIBRE DU POSTMODERNE

Durant cette première moitié du semestre, nous étudierons les racines culturelles, historiques et politiques de la France actuelle. Nous prendrons connaissance des enjeux qui ont contribué à l'évolution d'une identité culturelle et nationale en France au cours du vingtième siècle. En étudiant des documents authentiques ainsi que des textes écrits plus récemment, nous prendrons connaissance non seulement de l'histoire de la France mais aussi de la façon dont elle est comprise par les français d'aujourd'hui.

Questions Principales : *Quels sont les moments historiques qui ont formé la France d'aujourd'hui ? Quels mouvements politiques se sont développés au cours du vingtième siècle ? Quels courants philosophiques ont informé leur développement ? Qui sont les plus importants acteurs de la vie publique en France ? Quelles idées se sont développées au cours du vingtième siècle sur la notion d'une identité française ? Quelles sont les histoires qui soutiennent ces idées ? Comment est-ce que les français du vingtième siècle concevaient leur pays -- à l'idéal et en réalité ?*

#### I- Prélude

mardi 22 août: Présentation du cours ; Qu'est-ce que la culture ?

jeudi 24 août: Histoire de la France Tour Éclair I (46 AEC à 1914)  
À Préparer : Étudier dans *La France contemporaine* les pages v-xi

#### II – La Grande Guerre (1914 -1918)

mardi 29 août : La Grande Guerre (1914-1918)  
À Préparer: Louis-Ferdinand Céline, *Voyage au bout de la nuit* (1932)

jeudi 31 août : La Grande Guerre (1914-1918)  
À Préparer: Louis-Ferdinand Céline, *Voyage au bout de la nuit* (1932)  
**\*\* Choisissez un sujet de présentation\*\***

#### III – La Deuxième Guerre Mondiale (1939-1945)

mardi 5 septembre : La Deuxième Guerre Mondiale (1939-1942)  
À Préparer : Charlotte Delbo, *Auschwitz et après* (1946)

jeudi 7 septembre : La Deuxième Guerre Mondiale (1939-1942)  
À Préparer: Film : *Au revoir, les enfants* (1987)

#### IV – La France de l'Après-Guerre

mardi 12 septembre : La désillusion et le retour à la prospérité  
À Préparer : Préparer questions de réflexion

**\*\* Quiz 1\*\***

jeudi 14 septembre : Les Trente Glorieuses  
 À Préparer : Film : *Le Bonheur* (1965)

### V – Le Changement Social

mardi 19 septembre : Mai '68  
 À Préparer : Andrew Feenberg et Jim Freedman, *When Poetry ruled the Streets : The French May Events of 1968* (2001)

jeudi 21 septembre : Les Droits des femmes et la structure de la famille  
 À Préparer : *La France contemporaine* pp. 144-160 ; Contrôle des connaissances p. 161 I :1-20 ; II : 1-5

### VI – Le Colonialisme

mardi 26 septembre : La « Mission Civilisatrice »  
 À Préparer : Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, *De la Colonisation chez les peuples modernes* (1874)  
 J. P. Daughton, *Empire Divided : Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French colonialism, 1880-1914* (2006)

jeudi 28 septembre : Les « Événements » en Algérie  
 À Préparer : Film : *La Bataille d'Alger* (1966)

### LA FRANCE ACTUELLE – UN NOUVEL ÉQUILIBRE ?

Durant cette deuxième partie du cours, nous replacerons les événements historiques et courants philosophiques étudiés dans la première moitié du semestre dans le contexte précis de la France contemporaine. Nous prendrons connaissance de la place qu'occupe la France en Europe ainsi que dans le monde, avec une attention particulière portée sur les relations franco-américaines. Nous nous pencherons tout particulièrement sur l'organisation politique de la France ainsi que sa situation géographique afin de mieux découvrir les différentes cultures qui prolifèrent au sein de ce pays.

Questions Principales: *Quel est le rôle de la France dans l'Union Européenne ? Comment est-ce que les français voient leur place dans l'Europe moderne ? Quelle est la relation entre Paris et les provinces ? Quelle est la réputation mythique des provinces ? Est-ce que cette réputation correspond à la réalité ? Quelle est la réputation mythique de Paris ? Est-ce que cette réputation correspond à la réalité ? Quelle est la relation entre la France et les Etats-Unis ? Comment est-ce que la notion d'identité nationale est comprise par les intellectuels français ? Comment est-ce que nous qui sommes à l'extérieur de la métropole française pouvons la concevoir ?*

### I – La France et l'Europe

mardi 3 octobre : Les Régions de la France  
 À Préparer : *La France Contemporaine* pp. 6-7 ; 34-37  
 \*\*Mini-présentation d'une région française\*\*

- jeudi 5 octobre : L'Identité régionale  
À Préparer : Émilie Carles, *Une soupe aux herbes sauvages* (1977)
- mardi 10 octobre : L'Union Européenne  
À Préparer : *La France Contemporaine* pp. 75-86 ; Contrôle des connaissances p. 88-89 I : 1-20 ; II : 1-10
- jeudi 12 octobre : EXAMEN DE MI-SEMESTRE
- mardi 17 octobre : **FALL BREAK**

## II - L'Immigration et l'Intégration

- jeudi 19 octobre : Histoire de l'immigration en France  
À Préparer : *La France Contemporaine* pp. 226-239 ; Contrôle des connaissances p. 240-241 I : 1-20
- mardi 24 octobre : La Tension Culturel et le Terrorisme Domestique (I)  
À Préparer : Article du *Nouvel Observateur*, « Fous de Dieu ou fous tout court » & Activité de Recherche sur l'histoire du Terrorisme
- jeudi 26 octobre : La Tension Culturel et le Terrorisme Domestique (II)  
À Préparer : Film : *Je suis Charlie*
- mardi 31 octobre : L'intégration et le partage culturelle  
À Préparer : Tahar Ben Jelloun, « La Petite à la burqa rouge » (2014)

## III – La Vie Urbaine

- jeudi 2 novembre : La Ville Lumière (I)  
À Préparer : *La France Contemporaine* 15-30 ; Contrôle des connaissances p. 31 I : 1-12 ; II : 3-10  
**\*\*Quiz 2\*\***
- mardi 7 novembre : La Ville Lumière (II)  
À Préparer : Film : *Paris, je t'aime*
- jeudi 9 novembre : La Banlieue (I)  
À Préparer : Série d'articles publiés dans *Le Parisien* (2009)
- mardi 14 novembre : La Banlieue (II)  
À Préparer : Film : *La Haine* (1995)

**IV- L'Éducation**

jeudi 16 novembre : Le Système scolaire  
 À Préparer : *La France Contemporaine* pp. 242-259 ; Contrôle des connaissances p. 260 I : 1-20

mardi 21 novembre : L'égalité des chances et le système scolaire  
 À Préparer : Film : *Entre les murs* (2008)

**V – L'État français**

jeudi 23 novembre : THANKSGIVING BREAK

mardi 28 novembre : La République  
 À Préparer : *La France contemporaine* pp. 92-104 ; Contrôle des connaissances p. 105 I : 1-10  
**\*\* Quiz 3\*\***

jeudi 30 novembre : Les Parties politiques  
 À Préparer : *La France contemporaine* pp. 125-138 ; Contrôle des connaissances p. 140 I : 1-14 ;  
**\*\* Mini-présentation de groupe : une partie politique\*\***

**VI – L'Identité nationale**

mardi 5 décembre : La France et les Etats-Unis  
 À Préparer : Film : *2 Days in Paris*

jeudi 7 décembre : Être français  
 À Préparer : *La France Contemporaine*, « Introduction » pp. 1-4  
 Michel Winock, « Être français, c'est le vouloir ». *Le Nouvel Observateur* (2009)

**EXAMEN FINAL : lundi 11 décembre 13h30-16h00**

**BONNES VACANCES !!!**