

Europe & France: Institutions, History & Civilization

Course syllabus 2019

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1. Description

This course introduces foreign students to European institutions, history and civilization with a focus on what makes France unique from historical, political and cultural point of views.

2. Organisation

This is a lecture course in which topics are presented by the instructor. Assigned readings may be required of students and the precise titles will be given on the first lecture. These readings may be press articles, book chapters or even short videos introducing French chanson and cinema.

There is no suggested textbook but the students will receive the power points the instructor is using in class.

Students will have to do a presentation by the end of the course. This presentation will be graded and will represent 40 % of the final grade. More information is given in the 'grading plan' section.

3. Course objectives

- To introduce students to landmarks of French history.
- To introduce students to the impact the French Revolution had on French society and culture and how it is still visible today through 'France's exception' (Republic, secularity, ...)
- To introduce students to the European Union, from its history to its impact on European politics today.
- To provide students with opportunities to discover French culture.

4. Course topics

- From the Gauls to the Franks
- Landmarks from Medieval to Modern Times (important kings, Viking Age, Templars, Crusades, First Universities, The Hundred Years' War, Age of Discovery, Renaissance and Reformation, Louis XIV and Versailles)

- Heritage of the French Revolution (Enlightenment and the Philosophers, ...) and contemporary politics
 - A one-afternoon field trip is scheduled in 2019 to the Memorial dedicated to Charles de Gaulle. It will stand in for one course session.
- The European Union
 - An historical introduction: the origins of 'Europe', the League of Nations, the United Nations, post WW2 changes, founding treaties (Paris, Rome, Maastricht), 1950-ESCS, CAP, enlargement and further integration
 - The functioning of the EU: EU main institutions (European Commission, The Council of the EU, The European Parliament), Economic and Monetary Union, Schengen Area, EU citizenship
 - Current issues and future problems: foreign policy, EU boundaries, Europhobia, illegal immigration, Brexit, Frexit, EU-budget
- Education in France
- The idea of 'France's exception' (Republic, secularity, ...)
- French culture: chanson, cinema
 - Screening of *The 400 Blows* (1959-New Wave movie by François Truffaut)
- Local history and heritage

5. Bibliography

Here is a non exhaustive list of articles, books or video used for 2018-class. The list will evolve for 2019-class but students are welcome to read/use them for references.

- Burman, Edward, *The Templars: Knights of God*. Rochester: Destiny Books, 1990.
- Davies, Norman, *Europe: A History*, London: Pimlico : Random House, 1997
- Decaux, Alain, *C'était Bonaparte*, 2002
- Fontaine, Pascal, *Europe in 12 Lessons*, European Commission 2006
- France, Anatole, *The Life of Joan of Arc.*, 19th century French classic, Cambridge University Press, 2006
- Goudineau Christian, *Le dossier Vercingétorix*, Actes Sud, 2009
- Logie Jacques, *Waterloo : La campagne de 1815*, Racine, 2003
- Malrain François (sous la direction de) et Matthieu Poux, *Qui étaient les Gaulois*, La Martinière, 2001
- Norwich, John Julius, *Shakespeare's Kings: the Great Plays and the History of England in the Middle Ages: 1337–1485*, New York : Scribner, 2000
- Selwood, Dominic, *Knights of the Cloister. Templars and Hospitallers in Central-Southern Occitania 1100-1300*. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2002

- Truffaud, François, *The 400 Blows* (1959) video
- Voltaire, *The Age of Louis XIV*, London: J. M. Dent; New York: E. P. Dutton, 1961

6. Grading plan

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

- final exam = 40 %
- presentation = 40 %
- attendance / presence in class = 20 %

a) final exam

The final exam consists of a written exam to test the knowledge gained during the course. It will be divided between multiple-choice questions and short essays

b) presentation

The presentation will consist of a topic of French history or culture (student choice) in groups of 3

20% = individual mark (oral presentation)

20% = group mark (500+ words-summary)

c) attendance / presence in class

Attendance will be graded as follows:

- full attendance = full mark
- 3-5 absences = 10 %
- 6 absences = 0

Absences for which an excuse is provided will not be figured in the attendance grade.

Any significant tardy or early departure from class will be figured as a half absence.

Anyone who has more than six class-long, unexcused absences will receive an "F" grade for the course.

The quality of presence of students will also be taken into account.