

## HISTORY 3328 - MODERN FRANCE

### Syllabus

Professor Thomas Kaiser

Office Hours: 8:30-9:15 TTh & by appointment

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#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To examine the history of France from the Old Regime to the present, with emphasis on contesting notions of the “nation.”
- 2) To provide a historiographical context for the arguments offered in this course.
- 3) To develop critical thinking and effective writing to the extent possible in a course primarily driven by content.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Regular class attendance and participation in class discussion. Class discussion will be graded and count for 20% of the course grade.
- 2) Two mid-term examinations and a final, each counting 20% of the course grade. The examinations will be written outside class and must be the exclusive work of the student. The mid-term examination dates will be announced about one week in advance. It is the student's responsibility to find out when examinations are due. There will be a grade penalty for late examination essays unless an extension has been given in advance of the due date by the instructor.
- 3) Either a book review or a research paper. Only those who write a research paper are eligible for an A in the course. However, writing a paper does not guarantee receiving an A in the course; to get an A you must maintain an A average in all your work. Both the review and the paper will count 20% of the course grade.

A) Book Review Option. A review of a scholarly book on French history or culture since 1700, other than the required books for the course. The book must be approved in advance by the instructor, who will judge proposed titles on the basis of their relevance to the course and their academic quality. The review should describe the contents of the book and examine the main argument critically in approximately 1250 words. You will also be expected to look at other works on the same subject and refer in your review to at least two of them, so that you can better identify the contribution of the work you have chosen. Students choosing this option must select their book and have it approved by the instructor on or before March 29, or there will be a grade penalty. The book review is due on April 26. **NO EXTENSIONS!!!**

B) Research Paper Option: The topic of the paper is to be chosen by the student and must be relevant to the material in the course. The paper should be approximately 3500 words in length. To write a paper you must conform to the following schedule. By February 22 you must submit a paper proposal, including the prospective title, an outline of the material to be covered, and a list of some of the sources to be used. The proposal will either be approved or returned for revision; in the latter case, the proposal is to be resubmitted within a week. By April 10 you must submit a first draft of the paper, which will be graded, commented upon, and returned. By April 26 you must submit the second draft, which should include revisions based on the instructor's comments. Second drafts cannot receive a lower grade than the first; the grade will be raised in proportion to the improvements made in the second draft. Second drafts must be submitted along with the first draft and a list of changes made in the second.

If you miss any of these deadlines, there will be a grade penalty unless an extension has been given in advance by the instructor. No extensions will be given for second drafts. Students who decide to drop the Research Paper Option for the Book Review Option must do so by April 4, when they must submit the title of the book they intend to review. For information on paper content and advice on how to proceed, see "Guidelines for Papers."

## CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to arrive on time and stay until the end of class. If it is absolutely necessary to arrive late or to leave early, students should do so in a way that minimizes the distraction to other students and the instructor. In particular, late arriving or early departing students should not walk in front of the class once it has started; they should take a seat in the rear or side of the classroom. Students must turn off all cell phones, beepers, etc. during class; repeated disruption of the class due to misuse of these devices will lead to expulsion from the course. No texting or eating is permitted in class.

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense that merits an automatic F on an assignment. According to the University Student Handbook, to commit plagiarism is "to adopt or reproduce as one's own, to appropriate to one's own use and incorporate in one own's work without acknowledgment, the ideas of others or passages from their writings and works." In the case of essay examinations, it is understood you will be using ideas and information drawn from lectures and assigned reading; you therefore do not need to cite these sources if you use such ideas and information in an essay that is of your own original design and written in your own words. However, if you use the same or nearly the same wording of if your presentation of material follows point by point the order of presentation in a printed source, you must cite this source; close paraphrase without citation can be construed as plagiarism. Full bibliographical information (author, title, place and date of publication, and page number) should be provided if you use a source not assigned. Note that essays should not heavily rely upon quoted secondary materials or paraphrase, even when properly cited. Essays should demonstrate some creativity and independent thought, at least in the manner of expressing the problem and/or argument. On plagiarism in research papers, see "Guidelines for Papers."

Students with Disabilities: Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented), and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible, so that we can discuss with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of the course. The DRC offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process among you, your instructor(s) and the DRC. Thus, if you have a disability, please contact me and/or the DRC, at 501-569-3143 (V/TTY) or 501-683-7629 (VP). For more information, please visit the [DRC website](#).

## OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

### I - The Foundations of Modern France

- A. The Origins of the French Nation
- B. The Structure of the Old Regime
- C. The Crisis of the Old Regime and the French Revolution

Gordon Wright, France in Modern Times (Fifth Edition), Pt. I, Chaps. 1-7

David Bell, The Cult of the Nation

A. de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution

## EXAMINATION I

### II - The Nineteenth Century

- A. Society and Economy in the Early Industrial Age
- B. Domestic Politics, 1815-1870
- C. Foreign Policy, 1815-1870
- D. Third Republic through the Boulanger Affair

Wright, France, Pt. II, Chaps. 9-16; Pt. III, Chaps. 18-25

Eugen Weber, Peasants into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France, 1870-1914

## EXAMINATION II

### III - The Twentieth Century

- A. French Imperialism
- B. Decline of the Third Republic
- C. World War II and Vichy France
- D. Fourth and Fifth Republics—A Return to “Normal Politics”?

Wright, France, Pt. IV, Chaps. 27-36

## FINAL EXAMINATION