

POLI 4076

Politics in France and Francophone Areas

Instructor: Dr. Leonard Ray

Semester: Fall 2020

Office: 208C Subbs Hall (tel: 578-2550)

Time/location: Online asynchronous course

Office Hours: by appointment.

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Course Description

This course will introduce students to the political institutions, forces, and debates in contemporary France. We will review the history of the French Republic, from the French Revolution to the events surrounding the creation of the Fifth Republic. The design and function of these institutions will be discussed along with recent reforms to the constitutional structure of the Fifth Republic. We will conclude our coverage of France with an overview of important issues facing French domestic politics and foreign policy.

Required Reading

The following 2 books are required for Poli 4076, and are available as electronic books from the LSU Library.

Jeremy Popkin, *A History of Modern France, Fifth Edition*, Routledge (2020), ISBN 978-1-138-55719-2.

Link = [ebook A History of Modern France](#)

Andrew Knapp and Vincent Wright *The Government and Politics of France* Taylor and Francis 2004

Link = [ebook The Government and Politics of France](#)

Other readings will be made available online through Moodle.

About the readings

This semester I have replaced required textbooks used in earlier semesters with e-books available from the LSU library, and added several online readings instead. In addition to lowering your textbook costs, the online readings will introduce you to a variety of French intellectuals and political actors in their own words. If you have issues with your internet connection, you may want to download all of these materials when you have good internet access so that your ability to do the readings is not impaired by intermittent internet connectivity.

Course Requirements and Grading

Graded work includes online discussions, short written assignments, a presentation, and midterm and final exams. Assignments are weighted as follows:

- 30% Participation in weekly online discussion assignments

- 30% 3 Short writing assignments 3 to 5 pages (10% each)
- 10% 1 Short video/powerpoint presentation (5 minutes) on a historical or contemporary French leader

- 10% Mid Term Exam 1
- 10% Mid Term Exam 2
- 10% Final Exam

Short writing assignments:

Three writing assignments will be completed during the semester. Each assignment will require three to five pages of writing. Details on each assignment will be handed out as the semester progresses.

Writing Topic #1 Resistance, Collaboration, and Occupation. Due October 5.

For this assignment, students will write either about the French experience under German occupation during WWII, or the French experience as the colonial power in Algeria. This assignment will focus on the moral choices facing both occupier and resistance.

Writing Topic #2 Semi-Presidential government. Due November 5.

Francois Mitterrand once described the fifth republic as a “permanent coup d’etat” In a couple of pages, describe the ways in which this republic can be criticized as undemocratic, and how it can be defended as a democratic system. Assess whether the regime has become more or less democratic over time, and close with an evaluation of Mitterrand’s characterization of the regime.

Writing Topic #3 Franco-American contrasts. Due December 5.

In this piece students compare and contrast one aspect of American and French political life. Topics can include political parties, ideas and ideologies, public policies, or other aspects of society related to political life.

Online Discussions:

Students are also required to participate in weekly online discussion boards. Each week I will provide a topic related to the material we are veering that week. A *discussion* requires participation in a number of different roles. Students will have to contribute information to the discussion, and offer their own interpretation that information. They also must read the contributions of others and respond thoughtfully and considerately. For each topic, I may organize multiple discussion threads to allow students to discuss an aspect of the subject they find particularly interesting.

Mid Terms and Final Exams: The exams for this course will combine short answer/ ID questions with multiple choice questions. The first midterm will cover the historical section of the course, the second midterm will

cover the institutions of the fifth republic, and the final will be cumulative, but with an emphasis on the issues described in the third section of the course.

Grading Scale:

97 ≤ A+ ≤ 100

93 ≤ A < 97

90 ≤ A- < 93

87 ≤ B+ < 90

83 ≤ B < 87

80 ≤ B- < 83

77 ≤ C+ < 80

73 ≤ C < 77

70 ≤ C- < 73

67 ≤ C+ < 70

63 ≤ C < 67

60 ≤ C- < 63

F = < 59

Schedule

Part I

History: 231 Years of French Political History

Week 1

Aug 24 The Ancien Regime and The Revolution

History of Modern France pages 1-71

Bossuet selections (online)

Colbert Memorandum on Trade (On Moodle)

Rousseau selections (online)

Condorcet selection (online)

Declaration of Rights of Man

Week 2

Aug 31 The cycle of regimes 1789-1875

History of Modern France pages 71-141

DeMaistre selection (online)

Selections from Benjamin Constant (online)

Karl Marx, Communist Manifesto Chapter 2 and 4.

And 18th Brumiere of Louis Bonaparte Chapter 1 (online)

Victor Hugo, Napoleon le petit Book 1, sections V and VI (online)

Week 3

Sept 7 The Third Republic, Imperialism History of Modern France pages 141-255

Jules Ferry on imperialism (online)

Drumont "The Jews against France" (online)

Gambetta's Belleville Manifesto (online)

Week 4

Sept 14 Occupation and resistance

(Film: The Sorrow and the Pity) History of Modern France pages 255-276

Camus "Letter to a German Friend I" online

Sorrow and Pity handout online

Week 5

Sept 21 Postwar France- the 4th Republic and Algeria History of Modern France pages 276-298

Schumann Declaration (online)

2 Poujade articles (online)

Camus "Letter to an Algerian Militant" "Algeria 1958" (online)

Week 6

Sept 28 May 1968 and the Socialist U Turn of 1984 History of Modern France pages 298-339

Part II

Institutions Readings TBA

Week 7

Oct 5 5th Republic 1.0 and 2.0

Week 8

Oct 12 Executive & Legislative

Week 9

Oct 19 French electoral system(s)

Week 10

Oct 26 French Political Parties

Week 11

Nov 2 Local gvt. & Judicial System(s)

Part II

Issues

Week 12

Nov 9 Immigration and Assimilation

National Identity

Week 13

Nov 16 Security and foreign policy

Week 14

Nov 23 Politics of Sex and Gender

Issues of Free Expression

Week 15

Nov 30 Update and Review