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HSTR 353.01: Modern France

Linda S. Frey
University of Montana - Missoula, linda.frey@umontana.edu

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HISTORY 353 - MODERN FRANCE

Texts

*Wright, France in Modern Times
*Zeldin, France, 1848-1945, Love and Ambition
*Guillaumin, Life of a Simple Man
*Bloch, Strange Defeat

Excerpts

Lamartine, Manifesto, 1848 Reserve
*English, Political Uses of Photography
Arnold, “Absinthe.” Reserve
Sharp and Jeffrey, “Après la Guerre finit . . reserve
*Spear, Assignment to Catastrophe Reserve
Paul Rahe, La Maladie française Reserve

*On reserve in the Mansfield Library

This course is only offered for a traditional grade.
Failure to complete a requirement can mean failure in the course
Plagiarism (see the student conduct code) means not just failure of the specific assignment but failure in the class.

Midterm - March 17 (tentative) will cover
Wright, chapters, 9-18,
Lamartine, Manifesto
English, pp. 21-79, 111-141
Arnold, “Absinthe”
Guillaumin

Paper - April 14
Papers are due at the beginning of the class hour. No electronic submissions will be accepted.
LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

When you write your paper please use the Chicago Manual of Style (Turabian) and footnotes. Do not put the notes in the text. Please double-space the text and single space the footnotes. All papers should be submitted with the usual scholarly apparatus, that is, title page, footnotes, and bibliography. Papers should be double-spaced and 8 to 10 pages in length.

Final will cover
Wright, chapters 19-38
Zeldin, all
Sharp and Jeffrey, “Après la Guerre finit . .
Bloch, all
Spears, Assignment to Catastrophe
A tentative list of the lecture topics is coupled with suggested readings. Although Wright covers the topics in a different order, please read the text as we move through the topics. Guillaumin should be read before the midterm and Zeldin after it.

Introduction, France in Revolution
“How can you govern a country which has over 10,000 different cheeses?” Charles De Gaulle
_Lamartine, Wright, chapters 9-11._

Napoleon and the Second Republic
“He was vastly superior to what his preceding career and his mad enterprises might very properly have led one to believe of him.” Alexis de Tocqueville

Founding of an Empire
“A little vein of madness running through his common sense.” Alexis de Tocqueville

Foreign Policy
“The empire means peace.” Napoleon III

The Liberal Empire
“As for the empire, it is not too soon; it is not too late; the time is now.” Gambetta
_Wright, chapters 12-17_

Transformation of Paris
“You found Paris stinking and you left it sweet.” Chadwick

The Imperial Debacle
“I never dreamt of a catastrophe so appalling.” Napoleon III

The Third Republic and the Franco-Prussian War
France would not surrender “an inch of her territory or a stone of her fortresses.” Favre
_Wright, chapter 18_

The Commune
“We do not negotiate with assassins.” Thiers

English

Failure of Royalism
“We have lost in twenty-four hours the fruits of twenty years of prudence.” A Royalist
_Arnold_

The Constitution of 1875
“We are entering the Republic backwards.” Gambetta

Crisis of 16 May
“I’ve had enough toads to swallow.” MacMahon

Romanticism
“Color dreams, thinks, speaks.” Delacroix
Crises and Scandals

Boulanger, “had begun as Caesar, continued as a Cataline, and ended as a Romeo.”

Wright, chapter 19

The Dreyfus Affair

“J’accuse” Zola

Impressionism

“There are enough ugly things in life, for us not to add to them.” Renoir

Postimpressionism

“Look for the cylinder, the sphere, the cone.” Cézanne

Republicans Take Over the Republic

“The general atmosphere of politics and the one of nearly all legislation was one of half-hearted, timid compromise or which the fruits were usually to little and too late. The habit of débrouillage became chronic.” David Thomson

Separation of Church and State

The “discordat”

Wright, chapter 20

Retreat of the Radicals

I am “now on the other side of the barricades.” Clemenceau

“Decadence” and Pessimism

“Man is a fierce and lustful gorilla.” Taine

Wright, chapters 22-23.

A Hesitant Economy

The Return to the Land and Industrial Overproduction J. Méline

Wright, chapter 21

Entangling Alliance

“The time has not yet come for us to sleep with Russia, but it is time to commence the courtship.” Gambetta

Wright, chapter 24

War

“Foreign policy? I wage war.” Clemenceau

Wright, chapters 25-26.

Pyrrhic Victory and Peace

Père le victoire

Perd le victoire.

Wright, chapters 27-28

Postwar Republic

“Life is made of rubber.” Briand

Wright, chapter 29

Force and Diplomacy
“It was all right for Mr. Gladstone to have the ace of trumps up his sleeve, what was intolerable was his pretending that God had put it there.” Labouchère

Sharp and Jeffrey

The Republic in Doubt

“Public opinion is a harlot that must be driven with a whip.” Tardieu

Wright, chapter 30

Crisis of February 1934

“We don’t wish to upset the Republic, we want to cut its throat.” Léon Daudet

Diplomacy and Domestic Schism

An “Eastern Locarno?” Barthou

Surrender and Appeasement

France “no longer the gendarme of Europe.”

The Popular Front

The Popular Front “had promised to defend bread, peace and liberty. It has brought the workers misery, subjection, and war.” A Left-Wing Critic

Wright, chapter 31

Munich Era

“Peace in our time.”

The Phony War

“Is an invasion still possible? Chauvineau

The Lightning War

“Everything seemed to unwind in an undescribable nightmare.” Bloch, Spears

End of a Republic

“I shall refuse to leave France.” Pétain

The Vichy Revolution

“We have no other road to follow than that of loyal collaboration with Germany and Italy.” Laval

Wright, chapter 32

The Republic of Silence

“France has lost the battle, she has not lost the war.” De Gaulle

The Fourth Republic

“From the provisional to the precarious.” Blum

Wright, chapter 33
MODERN FRANCE

1814-1830  Restoration Monarchy

1815 March 1- June 22   Hundred Days

1830-1848  July Monarchy

1848-1852  Second Republic

1852-1870  Third Republic

1904  Anglo-French entente

1905  Foundation of SFIO
  Wilhelm II at Tangier
  Resignation of Delcassé

1906  Algeciras Conference

1911  Government of Caillaux
  Panther sent to Agadir

1912  Fall of Caillaux

1914  Assassination of archduke at Sarajevo
  Austrian ultimatum to Serbia
  3 August: German declaration of war on France
  5-12 September: Battle of the Marne

1916  Nivelle appointed commander in chief

1917  April Nivelle offensive
  May Mutinies in French army
  Appointment of Pétain

1918  Ludendorff offensive

1919  28 June: Signature of Treaty of Versailles
1923  Occupation of Ruhr

1924  Victory of Cartel des Gauches
Dawes Plan

1925  Evacuation of Ruhr
Brian foreign minister until 1932

1926  Government of Poincaré decree laws

1928  Decide to build Maginot line

1930  June: French evacuation of Rhineland

1932  Victory of Cartel des Gauches

1933  Hitler Reich Chancellor
Stavisky affair

1936  Remilitarization of Rhineland
Victory of Popular Front
Matignon Agreements

1937  Fall of Blum

1939  March: Germany occupies Czechoslovakia.
21 August: Russo-German Agreement announced
1 September: German invasion of Poland
3 September: Great Britain and France declare war on Germany

1940  13-14 May: French front broken on the Meuse
Pétain enters government
14 June: Germans enter Paris
18 June: General de Gaulle calls for resistance
22 June: Armistice with Germany
1 July: French government moves to Vichy
3 July: Mers-el-Kebir, British attack French fleet
10 July: Full powers to Pétain

1942  11 November: Germans move into unoccupied France

1944  6 June: Allied landing in Normandy
26 August: De Gaulle enters Paris

1945  Election of Constituent Assembly

1946  January: De Gaulle resigns
May: vote against first constitution
June: Second Constituent Assembly
October: Referendum on second constitution
1947  Formation of Gaullist rassemblement
1950  Schuman proposes European Coal and Steel Community
1951  June: General election
1953  Formation of Poujadist league
1954  May: Fall of Dien Bien Phu
       November: Algerian revolt
1956  General election
       November: Suez affair
       December: return of Saar to German sovereignty
1958  13 May: revolt of Europeans and army in Algeria
       1 June: Government of General de Gaulle accepted by assembly
       28 September: referendum on Fifth Republic
       21 December: General de Gaulle elected as president
1960  First French nuclear bomb exploded
1961  Army revolt in Algeria collapses
1962  Independence of Algeria
       Referendum approves future presidential election by universal suffrage
1965  De Gaulle reelected president
1968  Student and labor demonstrations
1969  De Gaulle resigns
1974  Death of Pompidou
       Victory of Giscard d'Estaing
1981  Socialist candidate Mitterand wins election