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HSTR 353.01: Modern France

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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. Guillaumín 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

“It is 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

**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**
“Je vous ai compris.” De Gaulle

Wright, chapters 34-38; Rahe

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