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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
- *Spears, *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

Boulangier, “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 undescrivable 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

The Fifth Republic

“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