Course Description – Beyond Freedom Fries:

When the U.S. initially decided against mediating a peace agreement ending the war last month in the Middle East, France stepped in. With French leadership encouraging American cooperation, the UN Security Council, Israel, and Lebanon crafted a cease fire, and French troops will lead an international force to secure southern Lebanon.

France’s international leadership is a sharp contrast to just a year ago, when young people rioted in the suburbs, and to the massive demonstrations that forced the government to withdraw a proposed law in the spring. It also contrasts with French opposition to U.S. intervention in Iraq, because this time the French were able to pull the Americans along.
Is this the same France where the head of a peasant union demolished a McDonald’s with a bulldozer? Or the France whose leading automaker – until recently state-owned – might buy General Motors? Or another France, where the son of an immigrant and the daughter of a colonial official born in Africa are the top candidates to lead the two dominant parties in this spring’s presidential and National Assembly elections?

France is a nuclear power with a permanent seat and veto on the UN Security Council; a former colonial power that occupied parts of North and West Africa, South East Asia, the Pacific islands, the Caribbean, and South America; one of the most important world powers in Africa with extensive economic, cultural, and military ties. For 100 years, France was the first destination of immigrants in Europe; French leadership established the foundations of the European Union and pushed every step toward greater integration. Socialist governments have moved France closer to the American model of economic globalization though almost every politician still expresses some measure of hostility to free market capitalism.

How do we understand the complicated nature of French politics? This course examines the connections between France’s past and present, France’s role in the world and domestic politics, French culture and the economic system, the often aloof political leadership and a frustrated citizenry. France today remains one of the most influential countries in terms of political, cultural, economic, and even military power. Understanding France requires us to delve into French history, the values and habits that shape political leadership, activists, and the citizenry, and the goals of French politics today and in the past. In the process, we will learn about Europe and the West, the responsibilities of political power at home and abroad, and the legacies of the past and the preludes to the future.

**Texts and Materials:**
Course Packs: available at the Bookstore. Indicated by CP on the outline
All other articles: Electronic, distributed by email; or library reserve (RES)

**Assignments and Evaluations:**
Our goal is to learn about and begin to understand France. Reading, lecture, and discussion are the most important activities, with brief writing assignments. In class, we will also examine films, music, television, websites, literature, and other resources.
No late assignments will be accepted, except in cases of emergency as determined by college policy. Papers with evidence of plagiarism or significant grammatical errors will not be accepted, and no resubmissions are allowed in such cases. Please see the college policy on plagiarism, and if you have any questions about grammar, contact the college writing center. Word Processing programs include spell and grammar checkers – pay attention to the red and green lines!! Email submissions require prior approval.

Note on sources for written work: Online encyclopedias and dictionaries are helpful for retrieving facts (statistics, institutions, leaders), but are not legitimate sources for research projects. You typically do not need to cite these sources for facts that are generally known (the president of a country, for example); only cite them for more obscure information (the percentage of citizens of foreign birth, for example). Moreover, Wikipedia is a complicated resource and there is no guarantee of its accuracy – handle with a critical perspective. Legitimate research sources are academic books and articles, editorials and opinion articles, and political speeches or proclamations that express an argument or perspective. Ask a librarian about online searches through JSTOR and other databases. Using or quoting other works or another’s ideas without citation is plagiarism.

Participation (20 points)

In class time will be devoted to lecture, questions, discussion, documentaries, films, news, supplemental short readings, and other material. In a seminar format, each session will include as great a variety of activities as possible, with a break approximately half way through.

Participation includes attendance and discussion or activities. In addition, each student must bring 3 questions from the readings or 2 questions from the readings and a news item to bring out in class discussion.

Weekly Assignment: Notes or Response Paper (35 points; 7 weeks at 5 points each)

Seven times during the semester, you will submit either a 2-2.5 page response paper (NO LONGER) for a weekly topic, or 3-4 pages of notes (NO LONGER) for weekly readings. You will sign up for 6 of these assignments based on availability during the second week of class, BUT everyone is required to submit a weekly assignment for Week 2. If class discussion falters, additional weekly assignments can be required.

Notes: Bullet points – NOT narrative. Identify the author’s key argument, then outline supporting arguments and important information. Move on to the next author. Make sure the notes proceed evenly through the readings.

Response Paper: Begin with what troubles/interests you about the week’s topic and the readings. You can do this by focusing on one aspect, then discussing how each author addressed that aspect. Do comment on all the readings.
Take Home Midterm (25 points): Short essay(s). Questions to be announced.

Final (20 points): Short essay(s). Will cover current events; another reason you should monitor the news in any French or English language source.

Course Outline:

1. Understanding France Today
   - Film: Caché (Hidden)
   - Golson, “Memory’s bombes à retardement,” *Journal of European Studies*, March-June 1998, pgs 1-10 (10)

2. Preludes in the form of Race, Revolution, and Authority (90)
   - Grimaldi Grigsby, “Girodet’s Revolt of Cairo,” *Extremities*, pgs 105-165 (60) cp
   - Image: [http://www.histoire-image.org/photo/zoom/vers79_girodet_001f.jpg](http://www.histoire-image.org/photo/zoom/vers79_girodet_001f.jpg)

3. The Problem of France (78)
Optional Reading:
Hoffmann, *In Search of France*, “Paradoxes of the French Political Community,” pgs 1-60 (60 – This is an extended version of the 1961 article) RES

4. Republican Nation-Building (87)

Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* RES
Between Vice and Crime, pgs 79-89 (10)
The Dreyfus Affair, pgs 89-117 (28)

5. Elites, Development, and the Nation-State (78)


6. French Civilization and Algeria (85)


7. Colonialism, Civilization, and Africa (80)


8. Midterm Due (take home)

9. (Fifth) Republicans (106)


*Nationalism*

*Race and Immigration*

*Gender*
Wallace, “Citizens but not Individuals: The Vote and After,” *Only Paradoxes to Offer: French Feminists and the Rights of Man*, pgs 161-175 (14) cp
Chiennes de garde of the World, Unite! *Beyond French Feminisms*, pgs 93-95 (2) cp

*Sexuality*

Suggested Reading:

11. Who’s French? The Politics of Citizenship and “Integration” (72+)

*Under a Veil*
Ezekiel, “Magritte meets Maghreb: This is not a Veil,” *Australian Feminist Studies*, July 2005, pgs 232-241 (9)
In the Salle des Mariages
E. Fassin, The Politics of PaCS in a Transatlantic Mirror: Same Sex Unions and Sexual Difference in France Today,” Beyond French Feminisms, pgs 26-36 (10) cp

In the Halls of Power
Daniel Sabbagh, “Affirmative Action at Sciences Po,” Race in France, pgs 246-258 (12) cp

On the Streets
http://riotsfrance.ssrc.org/
Wieviorka, “Violence in France.”
Roy, “The Nature of the French Riots”

12. France as a “Great Power” (100)

Bryant, “French Foreign and Defense Policy: Exception in Methods and Rhetoric?” The French Exception, pgs 121-139 (18) cp
Robie, Eyes of Fire: The Last Voyage of the Rainbow Warrior, Chapters 7&8, pgs 92-128 (36) cp

13. Thanksgiving

14. France and Globalization(s) (82)

Meunier, “Anti-Americanism in France,” French Culture, Politics, & Society, Summer 2005, pgs 126-140 (14)
Gopnik, “The Balzar War,” Paris to the Moon, pgs 228-238 (10) cp
15. France Alternatives (90)


*Contemporary French & Francophone Studies* Winter 2004:
- Oscherwitz, “Pop Goes the Banlieue: Musical Métissage and the Articulation of a Multiculturalist Vision,” pgs 43-50 (7)
- Marx-Scouras, “Rock the Hexagon,” pgs 51-59 (8)

*Interviews*
- “José Bové: A Farmers’ International?” *New Left Review* 2001, pgs 89-91 (10)

Useful Weblinks:

- Le Soleil, Sénégal, government owned – [www.lesoleil.sn](http://www.lesoleil.sn)
- Le portail de l’afrique – [www.afrik.com](http://www.afrik.com)
  - www.iht.com
  - www.wneurope.com
  - www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/
  - www.expatica.com
  - www.ttc.org
  - www.afrol.com
  - www.rfi.fr/langues/statiques/rfi_anglais.asp

Agence France Presse is available in English through the Library at LexisNexis.
www.parti-socialiste.fr
www.desirsdavenir.org – Ségolène Royal
http://www.mjsfrance.org – Mouvement des jeunes socialistes
www.u-m-p.org
http://www.interieur.gouv.fr - Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy
www.frontnational.com

www.confederationpaysanne.fr
http://previon.typepad.com/hebdo
www.communautarisme.net
www.motive-e-s.org
www.actupp.org