

CUL2124-08

MODERN FRANCE

Fall 2017 Term 1

3 units

Wednesdays: 6 - 10:15p.m (Note that the first class is AUGUST 30, before Labor Day !)

Office Hours: W 4-6p.m, or by appt. SM114 email: hdavis@ndnu.edu

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Hélène Laroche Davis, MA, Sorbonne, Paris, France, PhD, Stanford University, California.

Professor of French and Film Studies. Has published books and numerous articles on French literature and French cinema. LECTURED nationwide. Has worked with famous French film director François Truffaut. Attends Film Festivals, publishes articles, interviews. Fulbright Scholar, Recipient of French Government Academic Palms and NDNU Keller Teaching Excellence Award.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Study of France in modern times through its culture in **images** and **narratives**. Defining its **national** identity, **class** identity and **gender** identity. A look at the evolution of France's modernization during the XXth century and its Modern identity in the XXIst century. Comparing with the U.S.

Films and texts will be used. Possible visit of French guest speakers on specific topics.

Practice of survival French Language.

*** This course satisfies the General Education Requirement in Culture and Language (for BS students), and Interdisciplinary French Studies.**

TEACHING STRATEGIES AND OUTCOMES: Introductory lectures by instructor, accompanied by visuals and followed by class discussions. Oral presentations by students on various aspects of modern French culture. Reading of texts and current articles on France, viewing of feature films in French with subtitles, class discussions. Check current news on France and share with class.

Papers on major films and texts.

Practice of conversational French language.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will

***understand the evolution of France and its modernization during the XXth and XXIst centuries. They will also focus on specific topics of modern France and study them in depth, preparing the pieces of a puzzle which will be put together in a class capstone, creating a final image of Modern France as the students see it. They will discuss and make class presentations (PLO's 2 & 3)**

***acquire knowledge of domestic and foreign policy, facts of daily life, the development of the arts, the economy, the philosophy, and the literature of France and French speaking countries. Compare with the U.S. (PLO's 3 & 4)**

*** stress the values expressed by the Mission and hallmarks of NDNU: social justice, global peace... (PLO's 3 & 5)**

*** discover they can speak French, enough to survive in France, Quebec, Polynesia... and develop a taste for the language. (PLO 1)**

CREDIT HOURS: Hours in class 31.5: participation, discussions, oral presentations, viewing films, taking tests.

Out of class hours 103.5 = 15 hours per week:

Reading, researching on topics of modern France as directed by questions distributed each class for discussions and presentations.

Writing papers and reports,

Viewing films.

Preparing the presentation for the class

GRADING: Class participation	20%
Oral presentations	30%
Papers	30%
Final exam	20%

ATTENDANCE POLICY: A student who misses more than one class or its equivalent (four hours) must withdraw from the class. Even one absence can significantly impact achievement of learning outcomes and course grades.

The class is conducted in English with a component of basic French Language

LEARNING and OTHER DISABILITIES: If you have a learning disability or other circumstance that requires accommodations in this class, you must bring it to the attention of Disability Services to arrange for possible accommodations. Disability Services has recently become part of Counseling, Health, and Disability Services, located in New Hall E18 and New Hall E19. The main number for Counseling, Health and Disability Services is 650-508-3714.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic honesty is a cornerstone of our values at NDNU. If any words or ideas used in an assignment submission do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include, but are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. Consult the NDNU Student Handbook regarding consequences of misrepresenting your work.

TEXTS: CONTEMPORARY FRENCH CULTURAL STUDIES, Kidd & Reynolds (2000)

FRANCE (Culture Smart!)(2013) Barry Tomalin (ebook: eISBN 978 1 85733 674 0)
Recommended and in the library on Reserve: **FRANCE IN THE NEW CENTURY,** John Ardagh (2000)

French novel translated. **GERMINAL** by **Emile Zola**

FRENCH OR FOE, Polly Platt (2005)

All texts are on reserve in the library for the students' use.

France 24 online and other websites for press articles on France NOW!

Free BOOKLET on modern France distributed in class.

For each reading assignment a set of questions to guide the student will be distributed.

***ASSIGNMENT FOR FIRST CLASS :**

***REQUIRED: Write your own idea of France and "Frenchness".**

One page minimum.

***Find a news article on France and report to class.**

OPTIONAL, but a big help to keep up with class assignments :

See the film/DVD GERMINAL by Claude Berri based on the novel by Emile Zola.

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OUTLINE

Aug. 30 Introduction of course. Definition of “Modern”. Choice of topics for students’ presentations. Share your own view on Frenchness.

Viewing a film on France Language practice

***Assignment for next week:** Read pp. 3-64 in FRENCH CULTURAL STUDIES (TEXTBOOK). Read a news article on France and share with class.

In CULTURE SMART pp.8 to 19 & 95 to 100 Prepare discussion.

View film GERMINAL by Claude Berri or read the novel. Answer questions distributed.

Sept. 6 Discussion on film or novel GERMINAL and its period.

Discussion of Text reading and press article. **Cultural Policy.** Student presentation on

Education in France or a cultural topic chosen by student. Language practice.

***Assignment:** Write a paper on GERMINAL. Read in textbook pp.69-108. **Social difference.**

Sex and gender. Multiculturalism. Prepare discussion.

In CULTURE SMART pp.42 to 52 & 137 to 139. Read a news article.

Suggested: View film SMALL CHANGE by François Truffaut, or THE CHORUS by Christian Barray, or THE CLASS by Laurent Cantet, TOMORROW by Cyril Dion and Mélanie Laurent (2016)...

Sept. 13 Discussion on films viewed, on reading. Student presentation: **Women in France.**

Language practice

***Assignment: Write a paper on a question of your choice from the text reading.** Read in textbook pp.111-162. **Politics. Language and Identity.** Read a press article. In CULTURE SMART pp.19 to 41 & 81 to 87.

Suggested viewing of a film as suggested in class. FRENCH TWIST by Josiane Balasko, ENTRE NOUS by Diane Kurys, LES INTOUCHABLES, POTICHE, 8 WOMEN, ROMANCE ...

Sept. 20 Discussion on reading and news articles. Students presentations.

Share with class what you learned from film viewed. Language practice

Assignment: Read in textbook pp.165-219 **Sport. Advertising. Theater. Cinema.** In CULTURE SMART pp. 102 to 121. Read a press article.

Sept. 27 Discussion on reading, French news and film viewed.

Oral presentations by students followed by class discussion Language practice

***Assignment:** Read in textbook pp.220-301 **Media. Music. Books.**

Write a paper on a question from Textbook reading.

Oct. 4 Discussion on reading, news articles

Oral presentations by students followed by class discussion Language practice

***Assignment: Write a synthesis of course for capstone image of Modern France according to you, and based on presentations, reading and viewing.**

Oct.11 Capstone Final image of Modern France and its role for global peace and justice.
Final Exam & Party