

FREN 430
Spring 2013

LA FRANCE D'AUJOURD'HUI

Professor: Dr. Romain Chareyron

Office: Wescoe 2044-B

Office hours: Monday 3.00-4.00/Wednesday 3.00-4.00, or by appointment

E-mail: r807c509@ku.edu

Class hours: MWF – 1.00-1.50

Location: Wescoe 1045

Required textbook:

Edmiston, W.F. & Duménil, A. (2010). *La France contemporaine* (4th. edition). Boston: Thomson-Heinle

Films studied

Paris (Cédric Klapisch, 2008)

Une Hirondelle a fait le printemps/The Girl from Paris (Christian Carion, 2001)

Ressources Humaines/Human Resources (Laurent Cantet, 1999)

La Conquête (Xavier Durringer, 2011)

Les Femmes du 6^{ème} étage (Philippe Le Guay, 2011)

L'Esquive (Abdellatif Kechiche, 2004)

- The films will not be shown in class, they are considered homework. One viewing session will be organized for each film, if you cannot make it to the viewing session, it is your responsibility to watch the film before coming to class.

- These films can be viewed in EGARC (4th. floor Wescoe Hall). They films have been placed on reserve and should be viewed on site.

EGARC (Ermal Garringer Academic Resource Center) hours are as follow:

Monday through Thursday: 7.50 am -7.00 pm

Friday: 7.50 am – 4.30 pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 3.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Course description and objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to contemporary French civilization and culture through the study of social, political and economic trends from 1939 to the present, with a particular focus on the Fifth republic (1958 to present). We will discuss a broad range of topics, such as family life and work, sexuality, the educational system, religion, immigration issues, the media as well as the political system in France and France's role in the European Union.

Goals for students:

- To improve your knowledge of modern France and to gain understanding of certain historical events that shaped French society, both politically and culturally.
- To develop your communication skills in French (both written and spoken) in general, and on fundamental aspects of modern French culture and civilization.
- To increase your proficiency in reading and listening comprehension, as well as acquire new vocabulary necessary to develop and defend your ideas on various aspects of French culture and civilization.

The majority of class time will be devoted to (a) discussions based on the readings, the discussion/reaction questions you will be asked to come up with for each chapter and the films selected for the course and (b) students' presentation on a specific topic of French culture. This class is not a lecture; rather it is designed for you to develop your knowledge, ideas, and language skills through active participation in our in-class activities and discussions.

Course evaluation

Attendance/Participation	15%
Discussion/reaction questions	5%
Homework/quizzes	10%
Mid-term exam	10%
In-class presentation	20%
Research paper	25%
Final exam	15%

Important dates: Your final exam is scheduled on **Friday, May 17th from 10.30am – 1.00pm.**

Departmental and course grading system

100-98 A+, 97-94 A, 93-90 A-, 89-88 B+, 87-84 B, 83-80 B-, 79-78 C+, 77-74 C, 73-70 C-, 69-68 D+, 67-64 D, 63-60 D-, below 60 F.

Attendance

Presence and participation in class is essential. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences (although any assignment due must still be turned in that day – electronic submissions will be accepted in certain cases to be determined by both the student and the professor). After 2 absences, you will lose 1% of your final grade for each additional absence. Tardiness will also lower the participation portion of your final grade. Please contact me if you have a valid reason for missing class (emergency, religious observance, etc.); you may be allowed to make up work if you have corresponding documentation. **If absent, it is your responsibility to find out what was done in class and what you need to prepare for the next meeting. Exchange your e-mail address with another person in the class so you can correspond with them.**

Participation

Your participation is crucial in order for you to have interesting and productive discussions. You are expected to contribute in meaningful ways, and you will be assessed both on quantity and quality of your contributions. The readings for this course are quite consequential, which is why I give you a very detailed schedule of what we will be studying, and when. Make sure you did the assigned reading before you come to class. Since we will sometimes be talking about social and political issues, do not hesitate to use the in-class conversation period to ask for clarifications about some social and/or cultural aspects that might seem unclear to you. **In order to become more familiar with current events in France, you must read at least one article from an online French newspaper or magazine each week and be prepared to report it to the class or a partner, without simply reading from it!**

Discussion/Reaction questions

In order to further facilitate discussion, you must each come up with a thought/question/reflection related to the week's reading (*see calendar below*). **These reflections are essential as they will be used to structure the discussion for each class and focus on what might be more problematic/unclear for the students.** For the most important chapters, I will also provide you with a summary of the main points you need to focus on when you study for exams.

Homework/Quizzes

There will be homework assignments and quizzes throughout the semester based on the readings and other class material. The homework may be questions/activities to prepare from the textbook or other related assignment.

In-class presentation

To explore a specific topic of interest to you, you will prepare a 30-minute presentation to present to the class in French. The topic can be related to an aspect of French culture talked about in the class but doesn't necessarily have to be so. **You must be approved in advance by the professor, so do not forget to make an appointment with me in advance so that I can give you some guidance.** You need to meet with me at least 2 weeks before the day of your presentation. However, you are welcome to consult me any time prior to this date if you have questions regarding the choice of your topic and/or the

organization of your presentation. You may wish to expand up on this same topic for your research paper. However, the paper will have to be much more in-depth. More information will be provided in class.

Important date regarding the presentation:

- **Friday, March 1st** Deadline to submit a topic for the presentation.

Research paper

In order to examine a specific cultural institution or phenomenon in more depth, you will write a research paper of 4-5 pages in French. The topic will be chosen in consultation with the professor. You can use any of the documents/films studied in class to support your work. The research papers will be graded regarding the quality of content as well as grammar accuracy and the ability to express your ideas in French.

Important dates regarding the research paper:

- **Monday, March 4th** Research paper outline due.
- **Friday, April 5th** First draft of research paper due.
- **Wednesday, May 8th** Research paper due.

Mid-term/Final exam

There will be a mid-term and a final exam, focused on the textbook readings.

Calendar for the submissions of discussion/reaction questions

Chapitre	Date de soumission
Ch.2	Dimanche 27 janvier
Ch.3	Dimanche 3 février
Ch.4	Dimanche 10 février
Ch.9	Jeudi 14 février
Ch.10	Mardi 19 février
Ch.11	Dimanche 24 février
Ch.5	Mardi 26 février
Ch.6	Mardi 5 mars
Ch.8	Mardi 12 mars
Ch.15	No question required
Ch.12	Dimanche 31 mars
Ch.13	Jeudi 4 avril
Ch.14	Jeudi 11 avril

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Plagiarism and cheating

"Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses that should be brought to the attention of the Chairperson or Language Coordinator. Whenever a student is caught cheating (whether copying from another student's paper or plagiarizing printed or electronic sources) the instructor will assign a grade of F for the quiz, exam, or paper in question and will inform the Chairperson of the Department, who-upon concurring with the instructor-will forward a 'CHARGE OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT FORM' to the student. In addition, the Department of French and Italian will review the case to determine whether or not to recommend to the Dean of the College that more serious sanctions be imposed."

Assistance with assignments

Students may use their textbooks, dictionaries, and grammar references in preparing any assignments. However, with the exception of help from the student's instructor and/or in-class activities such as peer editing, **any outside assistance** (that is, tutors, friends, native speakers, computer/internet translation programs, assignments submitted in previous courses, etc.) **is NOT allowed** on homework/assignments being turned in for a grade. **These things are considered cheating and will result in a grade of zero on the assignment, as well as a charge of academic misconduct, which may entail further sanctions.** The student should be certain that all of the work submitted in this course his/her own.

About the use of translation programs

The use of computer or on-line translation programs is **NOT permitted** in any French or Italian course and is considered cheating. As opposed to dictionaries and grammar references, these programs are not a learning tool because they simply provide a translation, rather than allowing you to choose among various words/tenses/etc. to come up with the best translation on your own. Moreover, translation programs produce bizarre and incorrect translations that are **notoriously easy to identify**. Students will learn far more by doing their own work than by risking serious academic consequences.

Grade definitions according to the University Senate rules and regulations

- 2.2.1.1. The grade of A will be reported for achievement of outstanding quality.
- 2.2.1.2. The grade of B will be reported for achievement of high quality.
- 2.2.1.3. The grade of C will be reported for achievement of acceptable quality.
- 2.2.1.4. The grade of D will be reported for achievement that is minimally passing but at less than an acceptable quality.

Consult with individual teachers concerning the calculation of grades.

Study time according to the University Senate rules and regulations

"One semester hour means course work normally represented by an hour of class instruction and two hours of study a week for one semester, or an equivalent amount of work. The concept may vary according to the level at which instruction is offered."

Students with disabilities

"Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss class accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate the educational opportunity."

Religious observances

"Where examinations and tests other than final examinations conflict with religious observations of a generally recognized nature, a student under obligation to participate in such religious observances shall, upon request to the instructor involved, which shall be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled examination or test, be accorded the opportunity to take the examination or test at some other time not in conflict with his (or her) religious obligations."

Attendance

Attendance in language, literature, and culture classes is essential for mastering materials, improving communication skills, and participating in discussions. Consult with individual teachers for their specific policy on attendance and make-up work.

FREN 430 CALENDAR

Please note that this calendar is subject to minor changes. I will issue a revised version of the syllabus as our progress requires.

Ch.7 and ch. 16 will not be studied in class.

Week	Monday (readings/homework to prepare before coming to class)	Wednesday (readings/homework to prepare before coming to class)	Friday (readings/homework to prepare before coming to class)
1 (Jan. 23, 25)	No class	Présentation syllabus	Ch.1: La France physique (6-12) Introduction générale au cours
2 (Jan 28, 30, Feb.1)	Ch.2: Paris (15-30) <i>For this chapter, you don't have to memorize the part about « arrondissements » (21-26)</i>	Ch.2: Paris (suite) Discussion autour du film <i>Paris</i> (you need to watch the film prior to class)	Quiz: revoir notes ch.2, PowerPoint ch.1 Ch.2: Paris (fin) Discussion autour du film <i>Paris</i> (you need to watch the film prior to class)
3 (Feb.4, 6, 8)	Ch.3: Les régions et les provinces (34-44) →Pour chaque région, notez 2/3 éléments qui vous semblent importants	Ch.3: Les régions et les provinces (suite) (44-51) →Pour chaque région, notez 2/3 éléments qui vous semblent importants	Ch.3: Les régions et les provinces (suite) Discussion autour du film <i>Une Hirondelle a fait le printemps</i> (you need to watch the film prior to class)
4 (Feb.11, 13, 15)	Ch.4: Les langues de la France (56-71)	Ch.4: Les langues de la France (suite)	Quiz: revoir notes ch.3, ch.4 Ch.9: La famille et la sexualité (144-154) <i>For this chapter, you can skip the part about marriage and children (144-147)</i>
5 (Feb 18, 20, 22)	Ch.9: La famille et la sexualité (suite) (154-160)	Ch.10: Le travail et le temps libre (164-174) <i>For this chapter, we won't study pp.174-184</i>	Ch.10: Le travail et le temps libre (suite) Discussion autour du film <i>Ressources humaines</i> (you need to watch the film prior to class)
6 (Feb 25, 27, March 1)	Ch.11: La protection sociale (189-201) <i>For this chapter, we will skip some of the technical aspects of la protection sociale</i>	Ch.5: L'Union européenne (75-82) →Faire questions 1 à 10 p.88	Quiz: revoir notes ch.10, ch.5 Ch.5: L'Union européenne (suite) (82-87) →Faire questions 11 à 20 p.88 <u>Deadline to submit topic for in-class presentation</u>

7 (March 4, 6, 8)	Ch.5: L'Union européenne (fin) <u>Research paper outline</u>	Ch.6: La République française (92-97)	Ch.6: La République française (suite) (97-104) La déclaration des droits de l'Homme
8 (Mar 11, 13, 15)	Ch.6: La République française (fin) →Faire questions 1 à 10 (exercice I) p.105 →Faire questions 1 à 10 (exercice II) p.105	Ch.8: Les partis politiques et les élections (125-129) →Brainstorming: "Que connaissez-vous de la politique française?"	Quiz : revoir notes ch.11, ch.6 Ch.8: Les partis politiques et les élections (suite) (129-139)
9 (Mar 18, 20, 22)	No Class (Spring Break)	No class (Spring Break)	No class (Spring Break)
10 (Mar 25, 27, 29)	Ch.8: Les partis politiques et les élections (fin) Discussion autour du film <i>La Conquête</i> (<u>you need to watch the film prior to class</u>) Revoir les notes sur ch.8 pour la discussion	Ch.15: Les médias (264-278)	Mid-term exam
11 (Apr.1, 3, 5)	Ch.12: Les religions (206-215)	Ch.12: Les religions (suite) (216-223)	Ch.13: L'immigration (226-237) <u>First draft of research paper</u>
12 (Apr 8, 10, 12)	Ch.13: L'immigration (suite) Discussion autour du film <i>Les Femmes du 6^{ème} étage</i> (<u>you need to watch the film prior to class</u>)	Quiz: revoir notes ch.12, ch.13 Ch.13: L'immigration (fin)	Ch.14: L'éducation (242-251)
13 (Apr 15, 17, 19)	Ch.14: L'éducation (fin) (251-259)	Ch.14: L'éducation (suite) Discussion autour du film <i>L'Esquive</i> (<u>you need to watch the film prior to class</u>)	Students' presentation
14 (Apr 22, 24, 26)	Students' presentation	Students' presentation	Students' presentation
15 (Apr 29, May 1, 3)	Students' presentation	Students' presentation	Students' presentation
16 (May 6, 8)	Students' presentation	Révisions pour l'examen final <u>Research paper due</u>	No class

Useful Internet resources

Presse écrite quotidienne française

- www.lemonde.fr
- www.lefigaro.fr
- www.liberation.fr
- www.metrofrance.com
- www.20minutes.fr

Journaux hebdomadaires français

- www.courrierinternational.com
- www.1jour1actu.com (gives really clear explanations about French culture and society)
- www.lexpress.fr
- www.monde-diplomatique.fr (more sophisticated and complex analyses of political issues)
- www.telarama.fr (more focused on arts)

Presse québécoise

- www.lactualite.com

Télévision

- www.tv5.org (international programs in French)

FREN 430*Dates de projection des films étudiés en classe*

FILM	DATE AND TIME	LOCATION
<i>Paris</i>	Friday, January 25 th @ _____	
<i>Une Hirondelle a fait le printemps</i>	Monday, February 4 th @ _____	
<i>Ressources humaines</i>	Monday, February 18 th @ _____	
<i>La Conquête</i>	No screening	
<i>Les Femmes du 6ème étage</i>	Wednesday, April 3 rd @ _____	
<i>L'Esquive</i>	Friday, April 12 th @ _____	