

# HIST 337: France

## From 1870

(Winter Term 2019)

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00 – 11:20 AM  
360 Condon Hall

CRN 27251

Prof. George Sheridan  
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 11:45 – 12:30 (no appointment necessary) and Thursday after class by appointment

### **Description**

This course surveys the history of France from 1870 through the postwar period (after 1945). A significant portion of the course will be devoted to the history of the Third Republic (1870-1940) and to the experience of France during the two world wars of the twentieth century. While the focus of the course is political history, the course will also address some cultural themes.

### **Requirements**

Students are responsible for reading all of the assigned readings on the syllabus on time, and for all class content, both lectures and discussions. Examinations will address both assigned readings and the content of lectures and class discussions.

The **course grade** will be determined as follows:

- Two papers, due dates of which are indicated on the syllabus: 50% [see details below]
- Mid-term examination: 20%
- Final examination: 30%

Distinctly good performance in class discussion may contribute to enhancement of the course grade in certain cases.

**Note concerning illness**: If you are forced to miss more than two class sessions in succession due to illness, report the illness immediately to Prof Sheridan by email or telephone message. Immediate reporting of such illness does not require confirmation of the illness by a note from a health provider.

### **Course Papers**

**Two** of these are required. The papers will be weighted respectively: first paper 20%, second paper 30%.

### **First Paper: Due February 14**

This paper will focus on Martha Hanna, Your Death Would Be Mine: Paul and Marie Pireaud in the Great War. The book is to be read according to the schedule of required readings on the syllabus. In the class session during which the mid-term exam will take place (Feb. 7), a set of prompts will be given to serve as topics for the paper. You will be asked to choose one prompt and, within a week, to write your paper on that prompt. This paper does not require additional reading beyond this book and the course readings through Week 5. The paper does require, however, that you read the ENTIRE book and, if specified in the chosen prompt, reference to the material of French history as presented in assigned readings and lectures to date. You are encouraged to read the course textbook (Charles Sowerwine, France Since 1870), chapter 8, in Week 2, along with the specified reading from the Hanna book. This will provide useful background on France during World War I, which is the focus of the Hanna book.

The required **length** of this **first paper** is: **4-7 pages (double-spaced, 12-point type), or 1200-2100 words.**

### **Second Paper: Due March 12**

The topic of the second paper will be chosen by you and may address any aspect of French history or culture since 1870. The topic must relate to the period and subject matter of this course. Bibliographies associated with the chapters in the Sowerwine textbook are especially recommended as sources for this paper. In addition, a bibliography by the instructor will be distributed to assist you in identifying a paper topic. You are not required to use items listed on this bibliography; its purpose is to serve only as a guide in selecting your topic and locating useful sources for that topic.

The second paper must be based on **at least two** different **book length** sources that are not assigned for required weekly readings or for the first course paper. Both books must be scholarly (that is, not popularized history). Additional sources may be used (including online materials) as long as the paper makes extensive use of the material in the two books. A written statement of the **topic** of the paper and the titles and authors of the **two books** you intend to use for the paper must be submitted by **February 21**. This may be submitted either by email to Professor Sheridan or in writing.

The required **length** of the second paper is: **10-12 pages (double-spaced, 12-point type), or 3000-3600 words.**

### **Academic Honesty on Course Papers**

Students are expected to produce course papers that are entirely their own work. Violation of this principle is plagiarism, which means any manner of presenting as one's own work the work of another. Plagiarism is intellectual theft. Where demonstrated, it will be dealt with accordingly. If clear evidence of plagiarism exists, the student will be informed of the fact and the paper will receive a grade of zero, which will be calculated as such into the final grade for the course. Flagrant plagiarism will be grounds for an automatic F grade for the course, regardless of performance on other assignments.

## **Examinations**

There will be a **mid-term examination**, in class, on Thursday, **February 7**, and a **final examination** in class on **Monday, March 18 at 8:00 am**. The mid-term examination will be based on all assigned readings and all lecture material through Week 4. The final examination, two hours in length, will be based on all assigned readings and lecture material for the entire term, although readings and lectures following the mid-term exam will be emphasized. Study guides will be distributed prior to each exam.

## **Course Materials and Communications**

The three main books for this course are the course textbook, Charles Sowerwine, France Since 1870: Culture, Society and the Making of the Republic (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), Martha Hanna, Your Death Would Be Mine: Paul and Marie Pireaud in the Great War, and Robert O. Paxton, Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order 1940-1944. All three books are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore ("Duck Store"). In addition, selections from source readings will be posted on the **Canvas** site for the course. The site will be used throughout the term for details concerning assignments and for other communications from the instructor. You should consult the site at least once a week to check for updates.

## **Grade Postings on Canvas**

Grades on assignments and exams posted on **Canvas** are intended as a means of updating you on your progress in the course. These are not official grades and should be used only as a guide to your performance in the course to date, so that you can work to improving that performance. Written comments on the first paper and the mid-term exam are intended for the same purpose. In addition to performance on papers and exams, your final grade takes into account factors such as participation in class discussion and evidence of exceptional engagement in the course or excessive negligence. The final grade is also determined on the basis of letter grades on each assignment, which are a better reflection of the quality of your work, rather than on the numerical postings on **Canvas**.

## **Learning Objectives**

- Acquire knowledge of institutions, ideas, issues, events, and relationships that contributed to the emergence of the political traditions and the major ideological and social and tendencies of modern France since 1870
- Develop a familiarity with key historical actors in the period studied in this course, and how their interactions with other actors as well as with historical context shaped the events and the transformations addressed
- Develop a healthy perspective on the nature of political complexity by immersion in institutions, mind-sets, power relationships, and cultural assumptions, of a period, a country, and a set of traditions that are unlike those familiar in America today.
- Acquire a sense of the various cultural trends and movements in France since 1870

## REQUIRED WEEKLY READINGS

### References:

- **Sowerwine:** Charles Sowerwine, France Since 1870: Culture, Society and the Making of the Republic (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)
- **Hanna:** Martha Hanna, Your Death Would Be Mine: Paul and Marie Pireaud in the Great War
- **Paxton:** Robert O. Paxton, Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order 1940-1944
- **Canvas:** Readings on course *Canvas* site

### **Week 1 (Jan. 8, 10): Background 1815 – 1870, the Paris Commune**

- Sowerwine, chs. 1-2
- Documents on the Commune – the Clubs [*Canvas*]

### **Week 2 (Jan. 15, 17): Third Republic, the Founding 1871 - 1879**

- Sowerwine, ch. 3 (pp. 25-34)
- Constitutional Documents [*Canvas*]
- Hanna, Introduction and One.
- Recommended: Sowerwine, ch. 8, for background on France during World War I

### **Week 3 (Jan. 22, 24): From Ferry to Boulanger 1879 - 1889**

- Sowerwine, chs. 3 (pp. 34-39), 5 (to p. 61)
- Maurice Barrès, Integral Nationalism [*Canvas*]
- Hanna, Two and Three

### **Week 4 (Jan. 29, 31): From Boulanger to Dreyfus and beyond 1889 - 1914**

- Sowerwine, chs. 5 (pp. 61-68), 6
- Annette Aronowicz, *Jews and Christians on Time and Eternity: Charles Péguy's Portrait of Bernard-Lazare*, pp. 1-11, 44-50, 71-75 [*Canvas*]
- Charles Péguy, "Dreyfus" [*Canvas*]
- Emile Zola, "Statement to the Jury," in *Emile Zola: The Dreyfus Affair, J'accuse & Other Writings*, ed. Alain Pagès, tr. Eleanor Levieux, pp. 55-61 [*Canvas*]
- Hanna, Four, Five and Conclusion

### **Week 5 (Feb. 5, 7): Turn-of-Century France – Religion and Science, Belle Epoque Culture**

- Sowerwine, chs. 4,7
- *Jean Barois*, "The Sower" (*Canvas*)

## **February 7 (Thursday): Mid-term Examination**

**Week 6 (Feb. 12, 14): From the Great War through the First Interwar Decade, 1914 – 1928**

- Sowerwine, chs. 8 and 9
- Paxton, Prologue, ch. I

**February 14 (Thursday): First Paper Due**

**Week 7 (Feb. 19, 21): Depression and Popular Front, 1929 – 1937**

- Sowerwine, chs. 10, 11, and 12
- Paxton, ch. II

**February 21: Statement of Second Paper Topic and Books Due**

**Week 8 (Feb. 26, 28): Fall of France, Vichy, Resistance and Liberation**

- Sowerwine, chs. 13, 14, and 15
- Paxton, chs. III, IV, V

**Week 9 (March 5, 7): Postwar France I – Algeria, De Gaulle and 1968**

- Sowerwine, chs. 16, 20, 21, 22, 24

**Week 10 (March 12, 14): Postwar France II – Varieties of Culture**

- Sowerwine, chs. 17, 23, 28, 33

**March 12 (Tuesday): Second Paper Due**

**FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, March 18, 8:00 AM**