

Spring 2012
 3400: 337
 Phone: 330.972.5468
 email: sharp@uakron.edu

Dr. Stephen Harp
 Office: CAS 204c
 Office Hours: TTh 1-3
 and by appointment

MODERN FRANCE

Course Description:

This course surveys French history from the Old Regime to the present. In addition to the traditional coverage of politics, economics, society and culture, the course considers specific themes in more detail. These include the role of religion in society, the "national security" debate of the Dreyfus Affair, the experience of World War I, interpretations of French imperialism in Viet Nam, as well as immigration and cultural diversity in contemporary France.

Course Objectives:

- This course is designed:
- To improve reading skills and the ability to locate and learn the significant aspects of the material read;
 - To improve writing skills with papers and essay exams;
 - To improve, through class discussion and debate, skills in orally presenting information and in advocacy;
 - To develop a general understanding of French history;
 - To develop a sense of how historians use examine primary sources to understand the past.

Course Texts:

- The following books are required:
- Binh, Tran Tu, *The Red Earth* ISBN 0-89680-119-5
 - Burns, Michael, *France and the Dreyfus Affair* ISBN 978-0-312-11167-3
 - Charef, Mehdi, *Tea in the Harem* ISBN 1-85242-151-7
 - Hanna, Martha, *Your Death Would Be Mine* ISBN 978-0674030510
 - Kaufman, Suzanne, *Mass Culture and the Lourdes Shrine* ISBN 978-0-8014-7532-0
 - Popkin, Jeremy, *A History of Modern France* ISBN 0-13-030955-6

*I'll occasionally also give short passages for students to read; these are on springboard.

Course Requirements:

Two Examinations (50%) include one midterm (20%) and the cumulative final (30%). Exams include maps, identifications, and essays.

Attendance, Quizzes (which will be instituted on a "pop-up" basis if people are not preparing adequately for class), and Class Participation (20%). Because attendance is necessary in order to participate and learn, roll will be taken. Participation in class discussion is essential to mastering the course material.

Short Papers (30%--10% each). Two 4-5 page double-spaced book reviews consider *Consuming Visions* and *Your Death Would Be Mine*; there is one 8-9 page double-spaced paper considers *The Red Earth*/"Indochine." I will be providing more details in class on this latter assignment. I will be placing additional sources on springboard.

Cell Phones: Have them off during class; they disrupt other students. **Don't text in class;** anyone I catch texting in class will have her/his final grade for the class reduced by one letter grade per incident.

Withdrawal: Note that University policy has now changed. Students wishing to withdraw must do so by the end of the seventh week of class (February 26 in spring 2012).

Attendance and Tardiness: Regular attendance and participation are required. **Late arrivals and/or departures are counted as partial absences.** Each absence beyond three will cause a reduction by a half-letter grade per absence. Three "free" absences may be used for personal or family emergencies, no questions asked. **Late papers will lose a letter grade for each class day late.** *No make-up examinations are permitted without a written medical excuse or other proof of emergency.*

Statement on Academic Honesty: Plagiarism (either representing someone else's ideas as one's own or using someone else's expression without proper citation) or cheating on exams will result in a zero on the assignment in question, and I will report the incident to University authorities.

Class Schedule:

Although the amount we are reading and writing is fixed, we may be working slightly slower or slightly faster than I can predict before the class starts. So this is a tentative schedule, subject to change depending on our progress.

January 10-12

Old Regime and the Origins of the French Revolution
Popkin, chapters 1-5
Springboard readings

January 17-19

French Revolution and Napoleon
Popkin, chapters 6-10
Springboard readings

January 24-26

Restoration and Industrialization
Popkin, chapters 11-13
Springboard readings

January 31/February 2

Revolution of 1848 and Second Empire
Popkin, chapters 14-16
Springboard readings

February 7-9

The Early Third Republic
Popkin, chapters 17-18
Springboard readings

February 14

The Belle Epoque
Popkin, chapters 19-21
Springboard readings

February 16**MIDTERM EXAM**February 21

No class--UA celebrates Presidents' Day

February 23

Discussion of Kaufman, *Consuming Visions*

PAPER ON KAUFMAN DUE

This paper is an analytical book review of Kaufman's *Consuming Visions*. It is NOT a mere book report. As for any historical work, historians would evaluate this book for how it changes our collective understanding of religion, politics, gender, and/or consumerism in nineteenth-century France. Implicitly, your paper is thus answering a question: how does this book alter or influence the received narrative of nineteenth-century French history (as you understand it given prior knowledge, class lectures, and the Popkin textbook)?

February 28-March 1

The Dreyfus Affair
Burns, parts 1-4

March 6-8

The Dreyfus Affair
Burns, parts 5-8

March 13-15

Have a good spring break!

March 20-22

World War I

Popkin, chapters 22-23

MARCH 22—PAPER ON HANNA BOOK DUE

This paper is an analytical book review of Hanna's *Your Death Would Be Mine*. It is NOT a mere book report. As for any historical work, historians would evaluate this book for how it changes our collective understanding of the First World War. Implicitly, your paper is thus answering a question: how does this book alter or influence the received narrative of the First World War (as you understand it given prior knowledge, class lectures, and the Popkin textbook).

March 27-29

Interwar Years and World War II

Popkin, chapters 24-28

Springboard readings

April 3-5

Fourth Republic and Decolonization

Popkin, chapters 29-30

Springboard readings

April 10-12

Discussion of *The Red Earth* and "Indochine"

APRIL 19—PAPER DUE

The Red Earth and "Indochine" offer two complementary, though quite different, interpretations of French colonialism in Vietnam. In this extended analytical essay, compare the views of French empire in the works of Tran Tu Binh and Régis Wargnier, the director of "Indochine." There is a list of additional sources for consultation on springboard.

April 17-19

Fifth Republic

Popkin, chapters 31-34

Mehdi Charef, *Tea in the Harem*