

*\*\*\*This prospectus is provisional and subject to modification.\*\*\**

## FREN 2280

### *La France contemporaine, de 1944 à nos jours*

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will be exploring the transformations of French society since the Second World War and into the Millennium. From the legacy of decolonization to the multicultural fervor of the 1998 and 2018 Soccer World Cups, from the May 1968 civil protests to the Republican marches of 2015 and beyond, we will be delving into the major historical and cultural movements that have marked the contemporary period. How did France recover from German occupation and cope with further wars in its colonial territories? How did unprecedented rates of urbanization and immigration change the face of the country over the ensuing decades? Who have been the major players on the historical stage? And what are the political, cultural, and socioeconomic challenges facing France at the outset of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? These are some of the questions that will guide our investigation into the past 70+ years of French history, a period as turbulent as it is rich in cultural production, and as complex as it is fascinating.

Throughout the semester we will be especially attentive to images, in every sense of the word: the images of national identity that France projects to the world and to itself, but also pictorial representations of the country, its people and its territory. These images, and the stories they tell, will help us envision the kaleidoscopic portrait of a nation.

Some of the assigned readings will be in English, but discussion and coursework will be exclusively in French unless otherwise stipulated. **Please note that this class is not open to native speakers of French.**

## OBJECTIVES

French 2280 is designed to help you accomplish the following:

- Develop original and critical perspectives on contemporary French history, society, and culture
- Sharpen your lexical and oral skills in French
- Engage in close readings of a variety of literary, journalistic, and scholarly texts
- Hone your interpretative approach to films, photographs, and other iconographic material
- Continue to forge an individual writing style in French, while solidifying the grammatical foundations of your previous study

## EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIRED WORK

*Class activities and homework will be detailed on the Canvas Programme, which students should consult on a daily basis. The Programme will be updated regularly and is subject to modification throughout the semester; your instructor will keep you apprised of updates.*

### **Participation and Engagement (30%)**

FREN 2280 is an interactive class whose success depends on students' regular, active participation. There will be a number of ways in which you can engage with the course material and with one another, both in and out of the classroom.

- ***In-class participation***

During the weekly class sessions, some of the time will be spent working with your classmates in pairs or small groups. It is expected that the discussion be conducted entirely in French, even when your instructor is attending to another group.

Your instructor will take attendance for every class session. Please make every effort to inform your instructor in advance if you are unable to attend class. If you are absent, you will be expected to review the material covered that day and to contribute to the class discussion by the end of that week via Canvas or Google Docs, according to what your instructor specifies. Please contact your instructor as soon as possible if you have any concerns or anticipate any difficulty in meeting these requirements.

- ***Homework and preparation***

Discussions will be largely based on materials assigned outside of class (readings, films, etc.), which you are expected to prepare before attending class. Assignments will also include posting written or recorded contributions to Canvas (e.g. discussion boards and individual Canvas pages) and Google Docs.

### **Légendes de la France contemporaine (30%)**

There will be 3 in-class compositions during the semester, corresponding to successive chronological periods of recent French history. Each composition will be based on your individual selection of 2-3 images from the period in question. Composition grades will be determined by linguistic accuracy and appropriateness, the pertinence and originality of the montage, and the depth, precision, and creativity of the written content.

### **Final album (25%)**

At the end of the semester, you will each hand in a final portfolio, which will include revisions of the first 3 compositions (including the images on which they were based) and an introduction presenting the project as a whole.

### Oral (15%)

There will be one oral exam, to be individually scheduled with your instructor at the end of the semester. The format and grading criteria of the oral will be similar to those of the written compositions.

### GRADES

- Participation and Engagement 30%
- Compositions (*Légendes de la France contemporaine*) 30%
- Final album 25%
- Oral 15%

A+ : 99-100	A : 94-98	A- : 90-93
B+ : 88-89	B : 83-87	B- : 81-82
C+ : 79-80	C : 76-78	C- : 74-75
D+ : 72-73	D : 70-71	F : below 70