

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

FREN 2280

La France contemporaine, de 1944 à nos jours

Samuel Martin

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 21st 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 intended for non-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%)

Students are expected to come to class ready to contribute regularly to discussion, having prepared the readings and films and completed any supplementary assignments (e.g. Canvas discussion boards) in advance. Readings and assignments will be indicated in the Programme. Participation will be graded on a daily basis; the two lowest daily participation grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

In case of absence, students should notify the instructor by submitting a Course Action Notice. When a student is unable to attend class, they will have the option of submitting a commentary on the day's readings for partial participation points.

Légendes de la France contemporaine (30%)

There will be 3 written 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

COURSE MATERIALS

There is one required text for the course, Annie Ernaux's memoir *Les Années* (2008), available in paperback. There will also be occasional films required either for rent or purchase through online streaming services.

Any student may consult with [Student Financial Services](#) to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.