

Français 1228

La France contemporaine, de 1944 à nos jours



Samuel Martin

msamuel@sas.upenn.edu

WILL 417

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.

OBJECTIVES

French 1228 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 strengthening the lexical and 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 regular basis. The Programme will be updated periodically and is subject to modification throughout the semester; your instructor will keep you apprised of updates.

- **Participation (20%)**

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 make every effort to notify the instructor in advance by submitting a Course Action Notice. Beyond 2 absences, 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.

Students should inform their instructor in advance (by the second week of classes) of any religious holidays they will be observing during the semester.

- **Répertoire ("les Super-8") (5%)**

Throughout the semester you will complete 8 worksheets to accompany your reading of Annie Ernaux's memoir *Les Années*, noting key vocabulary and cultural references. You will be able to use these worksheets as a resource for the midterm oral and the final essay.

- **Oral du mi-semestre (12%)**

Midway through the semester there will be a 30-minute oral assessment based primarily on Annie Ernaux's *Les Années*. You will have the opportunity to do a close reading of a specified passage before responding to a series of follow-up questions.

- **Légendes de la France contemporaine (36%)**

There will be 3 compositions written in class throughout the semester, corresponding to successive chronological periods of postwar 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.

- **Légende orale (12%)**

During the penultimate full week of the semester, there will be a 30-minute oral assessment scheduled individually outside of class. The oral, like the written Légendes, will be based on a photographic montage from the chronological period covered in class. You will begin by giving a brief analysis of your chosen montage before responding to a series of follow-up questions.

- **Rédaction finale (15%)**

During finals period, there will be a 2-hour essay based on readings and films assigned during the semester.

GRADES

- Participation: 20%
- Répertoire ("Les Super-8"): 5%
- Mid-semester oral: 12%
- Légendes écrites (x 3): 36%
- Légende orale: 12%
- Rédaction finale: 15%

GRADING SCALE

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

Please note that grades are not negotiable, and that departmental policy prohibits extra credit assignments.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is one text required for the course, Annie Ernaux's memoir *Les Années* (Gallimard/Folio, 2008), available for purchase at the Penn Bookstore or online.

Films required for the course will be streamed via Penn's library website when possible. Any film to which the Penn Libraries do not have streaming access will be available for rental or purchase on at least one commercial streaming service (Amazon, YouTube, etc.).

STATEMENT OF BELONGING

This class community strives to be an inclusive learning space, valuing all of our differences. We aim to be respectful of all members of this class, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, political beliefs, physical or mental health status, or socioeconomic status. All participants in this course deserve to and should expect to be treated with respect by other members of the community. Your suggestions for improving diversity and inclusivity in this course are encouraged and appreciated.

GENDER PRONOUNS

This class community affirms people of all gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let your instructor and colleagues know. Feel free to share your gender pronouns, if you are comfortable doing so. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor.

COURSE COSTS

Any student experiencing financial difficulty should contact the instructor so an alternative pathway toward learning can be arranged. Additionally, students may consult with Student Financial Services (<https://srfs.upenn.edu/financial-aid/counseling/>) and/or Penn First Plus (pennfirstplus@upenn.edu) 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. Students who are struggling to afford sufficient food to eat every day and/or lack a safe and suitable space to live should contact Student Intervention Services (vpul-sisteam@pobox.upenn.edu).

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

All academic accommodations must be approved by Disability Services at the Weingarten Center. Students who have been granted accommodations from Disability Services **must arrange for those accommodations to be communicated to the instructor**. All testing accommodations must be arranged by the student at least eight days in advance of an assessment. Refer to the course calendar for scheduled assessments. If you don't have academic accommodations, but feel you might require them, consult Disability Services at the Weingarten Center (<https://weingartencenter.universitylife.upenn.edu/academic-accommodations/>).

CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Department of Francophone, Italian, and Germanic Studies fully supports and adheres to all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.). The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. **If any part of your submitted work has been copied without attribution from some published or unpublished source, including the internet or generative AI, or that has been prepared by someone other than you, or in any way misrepresents someone else's work as your own, you will face severe discipline by the university and will receive a zero for the assignment.** For more information consult the Code of Academic Integrity (<http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/>) and the Center for Community Standard and Accountability (<https://csa.upenn.edu/>).

You may only use Internet sources (such as www.wordreference.com.) as you would a dictionary, i.e., you may only look up a word or phrase. **The use of online translators, generative AI, or another person for classwork and graded assignments constitutes plagiarism.** If you are having particular difficulty phrasing something in French, you are strongly encouraged to ask your instructor for help.

You are welcome and encouraged to work with classmates on regular homework and to study for quizzes and oral exams; however, compositions are to be completed on your own. If you feel that you need extra help for this course, you are encouraged to work with a tutor (see below). If you decide to do so, you must notify your instructor ahead of time as there are specific procedures you and the tutor must follow. More detailed information will be discussed with your instructor.

OFFICE HOURS

Your instructor is available to meet with you during office hours, which are posted on the Canvas homepage, and by appointment. If you have any questions or problems, it is important to see them as soon as possible so they can appropriately address the situation. Your instructor is also available via email, but they may not respond on evenings and weekends. Many issues are much better dealt with in person, and students are encouraged to come discuss with their instructor directly.

COURSE ACTION NOTICES

In keeping with the School of Arts and Sciences Policy, students may receive a Course Action Notice for any of the following reasons: (1) excessive absences; (2) frequent tardiness; (3) late or missing assignments; (4) poor performance on tests, quizzes or compositions; (5) weak participation in class. A copy of this notice will be sent to your academic adviser. Students not performing up to course standards are encouraged to meet with their instructor as well as take advantage of campus resources listed below.

COVID-19

Penn does not currently require students to wear masks. However, if you choose to wear a mask for any reason, I strongly support you in that decision. You will be informed if a classroom mask requirement becomes necessary at any point in the semester.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU SUCCEED

The Department Home Page: <https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/>.

Consult the Department Home Page for complete information about the Undergraduate Program in French, including course listings, extracurricular activities, and a list of tutors who are available for a fee.

Language Direct Peer Tutoring: <https://plc.sas.upenn.edu/languageirect>.

Language Direct is a free peer tutoring program for foreign language learners at Penn. It consists of a network of peer tutors, supervised by the staff of the Penn Language Center and language program coordinators, who assist foreign language learners through face-to-face tutoring and online help. Request a tutor on the website.

La Maison francophone: http://gregory.house.upenn.edu/la_maison_francaise

La Maison francophone, part of the Modern Languages Residential Program of Gregory House, is located in the Class of 1925 building, 3940 Locust Walk. Join to enjoy movie nights, cooking classes, conversation, and more!

Francophone Community Partnership: <https://penncubs.com/club/francophone-community-partnership>[Links to an external site.](#)

The Francophone Community Partnership is a bilingual after-school enrichment program that pairs 1st- / 2nd-generation immigrant children from Francophone West Africa at the Lea School in West Philadelphia with French-learning Penn students to nurture each other's language skills, confidence, cultural awareness.

Weingarten Center

The Weingarten Center offers a variety of resources to support all Penn students in reaching their academic goals. All services are free and confidential. To contact the Weingarten Center, call 215-573-9235. The office is located in Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300.

Academic Support at Weingarten: <https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/tutoring/>.

Learning consultations and learning strategies workshops support students in developing more efficient and effective study skills and learning strategies. Learning specialists work with undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to address time and project management, academic reading and writing, note-taking, problem-solving, exam preparation, test-taking, self-regulation, and flexibility.

Undergraduates can also take advantage of free on-campus tutoring for many Penn courses in both drop-in and weekly contract formats. Tutoring may be individual or in small groups. Tutors will assist with applying course information, understanding key concepts, and developing course-specific strategies. Tutoring support is available throughout the term but is best accessed early in the semester.

Disability Services at

Weingarten: <https://weingartencenter.universitylife.upenn.edu/disability-services/>.

The University of Pennsylvania is committed to the accessibility of its programs and services. Students with a disability or medical condition can request reasonable accommodations through the Weingarten Center website. Disability Services determines accommodations on an individualized basis through an interactive process, including a meeting with the student and a review of their disability documentation. Students who have approved accommodations are encouraged to notify their faculty members and

share their accommodation letters at the start of each semester. Students can contact Disability Services by calling 215-573-9235.

Study Abroad: [Links to an external site.https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad.](https://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad)

The University of Pennsylvania strongly encourages students to take advantage of the variety of opportunities for study abroad. Summer, semester, and year-long programs in France and other Francophone countries are sponsored by Penn Abroad.

Study Abroad - Penn in Tours: [https://summer.sas.upenn.edu/programs/abroad/tours.](https://summer.sas.upenn.edu/programs/abroad/tours)

The Penn-in-Tours program offers a variety of courses in language, culture, and history at the advanced level, in addition to an intensive intermediate courses. Contact the Program Director, Mélanie Péron, and the Undergraduate Chair, Scott Francis, for more information.

Student Health and Counseling: [https://wellness.upenn.edu/student-health-and-counseling.](https://wellness.upenn.edu/student-health-and-counseling)

Your mental health and wellness is of the utmost importance. If you or someone you know is in distress and urgently needs to speak with someone, please do not hesitate to contact Student Health and Counseling (formerly SHS and CAPS). They are committed to providing safe, accessible, cost-effective, culturally-sensitive, and student-focused care. They offer care for acute and chronic health problems, preventative health services, as well as mental health and counseling, crisis management, and consultations. If you are uncomfortable or need assistance, your instructor will be happy to contact them on your behalf. Medical care is available during regular business hours at 3535 Market Street, Suite 100 and 24/7 at 215-746-3535. Counseling is available during regular business hours at 3624 Market Street, First Floor West and 24/7 at 215-898-7021.