FRANCE AND ITS CULTURE
FREN 221

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241T Cain Hall
Office hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION
What is culture? What is French culture…or cultures? What does culture tell us about people, societies, and our world? In this class, we will engage with these questions through a “journey into the French heart, mind and soul,” and detangle the threads of French society in order to better understand it. Our primary text will be the travel essay *Sixty Million Frenchmen Can’t Be Wrong* by Nadeau & Barlow; we will also study and discuss literary texts and non-literary documents including books and book chapters, articles, newspapers, and websites; video clips and films; and music. There are no prerequisites. The course will be taught in English.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
- Introduce students to France and its geographic, historic and cultural evolution/s
- Expose students to the major threads (social, political, economic and cultural) that make up the fabric of France
- Provide students with knowledge of current trends and problems in France and its culture/s
- Develop students’ awareness and appreciation of the cultural differences in France, in French-speaking countries, and between the French and Americans
- Enhance and refine students’ critical thinking skills as well as their proficiency in reading comprehension, textual analysis, grammar and writing

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Learning is a process that builds upon each class session. For this reason, it is absolutely crucial that you be on time, present and prepared for every class. For each and every class, the following is required:
- Mandatory, timely attendance
- Active, thoughtful, articulate and respectful participation
- Mindful (and joyful!) completion of assignments, the “daily” quiz, your presentation, paper and exams
- Obligatory preparedness: bring pertinent documents and materials to each class

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
FREN 221 satisfies the University’s Core Objective 11 (CO11), Global Contexts. Since the course requires considerable written work, oral participation and several presentations, it also develops CO1: Composition and Communication and CO3: Critical Analysis.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
- Identify and critically analyze the major social, political, historical and artistic currents that make up France
-enrich their perspective of French culture through the examination of diverse documents including literary texts, films, websites, newspapers, music clips, etc.
-contextualize texts and events in France in relation to their historical context, in the international context, as well as in relation to the student’s home country
-critique what constitutes French culture, develop nuanced perspectives on French culture and apply them in diverse contexts including the artistic, the historical, the literary, the international, the economic, the sociological, etc.
-present intelligent and articulate analyses of and lead discussions on French literary and non-literary texts in oral and written forms
-perform scholarly research and produce a scholarly paper and presentation on a major theme of French culture

REQUIRED MATERIALS
-Madame Bovary, Flaubert. The Ladies’ Paradise, Zola. (Excerpts on WebCampus)
-Access to a computer & printer; paper
-Printouts of all required readings and documents as listed on WebCampus

Attendance & Participation: You have 2 “free” absences (unexcused OR excused). Any subsequent absence will drop your Attendance & Participation grade by one letter grade per absence. There are NO exceptions to this. Please note that 6+ absences are an automatic ‘F’ for the entire course. The A&P grading scale is the following:

0-1 absence/s = A
2 absences = A-
3 absences = B
4 absences = C
5 absences = D
6 absences = F for the course

Quizzes: The readings, chapter study guides and homework for each class will be posted on WebCampus one week in advance. We will have a “daily” quiz at the beginning of each class, which makes it imperative to arrive ON TIME to each class. If you arrive late (or miss class) and miss the quiz, you will NOT be able to make it up; if you take the quiz and then leave class, the quiz will not count. The lowest 3 quiz grades will be dropped. Each quiz will consist of three questions based on the study guide questions, assigned reading material and class discussions. It will be graded as follows:

A: 3/3  C: 2/3  F: 1/3 or 0/3

Along with daily quizzes, you will have three exams, one oral presentation and accompanying paper, and a “Newsflash”--none of which can be made up for ANY reason. Please mark the dates on your calendar.

“Newsflash”: For each class, one or two students will be chosen in advance to give an informal 5-minute presentation on one article in the current news on France or any other French-speaking country.
Oral Presentation: Each student is required to present--either alone or in pairs--one chapter of *Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong* or one of the literary texts from the syllabus. A successful presentation consists of the following elements: a concise and articulate presentation of the chapter/text that lasts at least 15 minutes; a factual analysis of the chapter/text AND a thoughtful and intelligent critique of it; research and inclusion of at least 3 supporting scholarly documents outside of the primary text that illustrate the chapter/text; audio-visual support; the creation and distribution of intelligent, creative and thought-provoking discussion questions; a four-page, double-spaced typed paper of the presentation, appropriately cited MLA style and accompanied by a MLA formatted bibliography. A detailed grading rubric will be posted on WebCampus.

Plagiarism is a serious offence and ANY instance of plagiarism will result in a grade of “F” and immediate dismissal from the class. This mark is permanent and cannot be erased by taking the course again; it remains on your transcripts for the rest of your life. The use of any published work and copying others’ work (published texts as well as classmates’ work) is considered plagiarism. Academic dishonesty is against university as well as the system community standards and includes, but is not limited to, the following: Plagiarism: defined as submitting the language, ideas, thoughts or work of another as one’s own; or assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing one’s work to be used in this fashion. The full text, including the array of sanctions for such conduct, can be read here: http://www.unr.edu/student-conduct/policies/student-code-of-conduct

Statement on Audio and Video Recording: “Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor.”

Cell phones and laptops must be turned OFF at the beginning of class; the usage of either one will result in immediate dismissal from the class and a participation grade of “F” for the day.

No food is allowed during class.

Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

**GRADING SCALE**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Newsflash</td>
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<td>3 exams (15% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation &amp; paper</td>
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<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
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Final grades will be assigned according to the University grading scale:

- A 100-93
- B+ 89-87
- C+ 79-77
- D+ 69-67
- F 59-0
- A- 92-90
- B 86-83
- C 76-73
- D 66-63
- B- 82-80
- C- 72-70
- D- 62-60

**N.B.** The syllabus and course schedule are provisional and subject to change per the instructor.
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<tr>
<th>FREN 221: COURSE SCHEDULE-OVERVIEW</th>
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<td><strong>Finals Week</strong></td>
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