



# FRANCE TODAY

**APA Program:** Paris

**Language of instruction:** French

**US semester credits:** 4.0

**Term:** Fall & Spring Semester

## Course Description

France Today is designed to facilitate the assimilation of students in their host country by giving them inside knowledge of France and its intricacies. With this objective, the main themes discussed involve national life (culture, politics, economic factors, social security and protection system) as well as societal issues (immigration, secularism, violence, and education).

This course is based on not only the professor's instruction, but the work accomplished by the students. As part of the framework of the course, students will be working on recent press articles given to them with the goal of engaging in conversations with their host families and by conducting personal research on the topics related to what France is today.

The following syllabus is given as a guide and may be modified at a later date.

## Schedule

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|-----------|--|
| Section 1 | The Political Culture of Contemporary France <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Gaullist heritage</li><li>• Public and private life: the Mitterand example</li><li>• The ups and downs of the Chirac years</li><li>• From Nicolas Sarkozy to François Hollande: new presidential profiles?</li></ul>          |
| Section 2 | France in the World <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• France, the driving force of the European Construction</li><li>• France and the US, between admiration and rivalry</li></ul>   |
| Section 3 | The French: Economic and Social Aspects <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The French day-to-day: <i>babyboom</i> and the aging population</li><li>• The French social security and protection system: a source of pride and apprehension</li><li>• French youth at school</li><li>• The French at work</li></ul> |
| Section 4 | France, Between Republicanism and Multiculturalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Violence in the suburbs: symptom of social malaise?</li><li>• Reception of immigrants: from assimilation to integration</li><li>• Secularism, the French model of respecting religions</li></ul>                            |

*Syllabus subject to change*

## Section 5

### France, Country of Culture?

- The place of culture in France: between fantasy and reality

### Assessment

#### Work required before each class:

- Regularly read the articles requested and present findings to the class (5%)
- Present a press review to the class (20%)
- Write an essay (20%)
- Presence, active attention and participation in class (5%)

#### Exams:

- Midterm (15%)
- Final written exam that will cover the entire course (20%)
- Oral exam based on personal research of a specific area of Paris (15%)

### Bibliography

Charbonneau, Nicolas et Laurent Guimier. *La Ve République pour les nuls*. Paris : First Editions.

Cole, Alistair, Sophie Meunier et Vincent Tiberj. *Developments in French Politics 5*. Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Delwitt, Pascal. *Les Partis politiques en France*. Bruxelles : EUB, 2014.

Frank, Robert. *La Hantise du déclin : la France de 1914 à 2014*. Paris : Belin, 2014.

Frémont, Armand. *France : géographie d'une société*. Paris, Flammarion, 2011.

Galland, Olivier et Yannick Lemel (dir.). *La Société française : un bilan sociologique des évolutions depuis l'après-guerre*. Paris : Armand Colin, 2011.

Labrune, Gérard et Toutain, Philippe. *L'Histoire de France*. Paris : Nathan, 2006.

Picq, Jean. *La Liberté de religion dans la République : l'esprit de laïcité*. Paris : Odile Jacob, 2014.

Wylie, Laurence et Brière, Jean-François. *Les Français*. Upper Saddle River : Prentice Hall, 2001.