



FRANCE TODAY

APA Program: Paris: Gap Year

Language of instruction: French

US semester credits: 4.0

Term: Fall Semester, 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.

Field trips and visits will complete lectures: Monuments of the République - Le Panthéon, L'Assemblée nationale, le Sénat, l'Arc de Triomphe et le Palais de l'Élysée, Le Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, le quartier de la Goutte d'Or, L'Institut du Monde arabe.

Schedule

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

Syllabus subject to change

Assessment

- Oral exam based on personal research of a specific area of Paris (25%)
- Attendance and active participation (25%)
- Final essay (50%)

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.