

POLI 4076

Politics in France and Francophone Areas

Instructor: Leonard Ray
Office: 208C Subbs Hall (tel: 578-2550)
Office Hours: M, W F 10:00 – 12:00
or by appointment.

Semester: Spring 2017
Time: T TH 9:00 – 10:20
Room: 229 Tureaud
Email: lray2@lsu.edu

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the political institutions, forces, and debates in contemporary France. We will review the history of the French Republic, from the French Revolution to the events surrounding the creation of the Fifth Republic. The design and function of these institutions will be discussed along with recent reforms to the constitutional structure of the Fifth Republic. We will conclude our coverage of France with an overview of important issues facing French domestic politics and foreign policy. An ongoing topic for discussion will be the French Presidential election of 2017, which will be held April 23 and May 7.

This semester the francophone segment of the course will focus on Tunisia. This North African nation was a protectorate of France and the French language remains important in education, business and politics in Tunisia. It is also the nation which touched off the chain reaction of uprisings called the Arab Spring.

Required Reading

The following books are required for Poli 4076, and are available from the LSU bookstore.

Author	Title	Publisher	ISBN
Sa'adah, Anne	<i>Contemporary France: A Democratic Education</i>	Rowman & Littlefield	0742501981
Huellebecq	<i>Submission</i>	Picdor	978-1250097347
Faïza Guène	<i>Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow</i>	Mariner Books	0156030489

Other readings, which will be announced over the course of the semester, will be made available online through Moodle.

About the readings

This semester I have reduced the number of required books, and added several online readings instead. In addition to lowering your textbook costs, the online readings will introduce you to a variety of French intellectuals and political actors in their own words.

The required books are two novels (*Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow*, and *Submission*) and a somewhat unorthodox politics textbook by Anne Sa'adah. Sa'adah's text places more emphasis on history than on the nuts and bolts of political institutions. Since the French are particularly prone to historical allusion, as well as institutional reform, this seems an appropriate balance. Note: *Soumission* and *Kiffe Kiffe Demain* can be purchased online in the original French. If you have taken French for your language requirement, I encourage you to read them in French.

Course Requirements and Grading

Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussion.

Graded work includes class participation, online discussions, short written assignments, a presentation, and the midterm and final exams. Assignments are weighted as follows:

- 10% Attendance and class Participation
- 20% Online discussion assignments (10% each)
- 20% Short writing assignments 3 to 5 pages (10% each)
- 10% Short class presentation (5 minutes) on historical or contemporary French leader 3/16 or 4/18
- 20% Mid Term Exam
- 20% Final Exam

Short writing assignments:

Two writing assignments will be completed during the semester. Each assignment will require three to five pages of writing. Details on each assignment will be handed out as the semester progresses.

Writing Topic #1 Resistance, Collaboration, and Occupation. Due Feb 14.

For this assignment, students will write either about the French experience under German occupation during WWII, or the French experience as the colonial power in Algeria. This assignment will focus on the moral choices facing both occupier and resistance.

Writing Topic #2 Franco-American contrasts. Due April 23.

In this piece students compare and contrast one aspect of American and French political life. Topics can include political institutions, ideas and ideologies, public policies, or other aspects of society related to political life.

Online Discussions:

Students are also required to participate in a number of online discussion boards about a number of topics, including the French presidential election. We will be using Blackboard course software to manage these online discussions. A *discussion* requires participation in a number of different roles. Students will have to contribute information to the discussion, and offer their own interpretation that information. They also must read the contributions of others and respond thoughtfully and considerately. For each topic, I may organize multiple discussion threads to allow students to discuss an aspect of the subject they find particularly interesting.

Online Discussion Topic #1 Divided government Feb 16-Feb 23

France and the United States have both experienced periods of divided government. What are the consequences of a partisan split between the Presidency and the Legislature? Is this a bug or a feature?

Online Discussion Topic #2 Presidential Election First Round April 22nd – April 29th

Explanation for and implications of results of the first round, expectations for the second round.

Mid Term and Final Exams: The exams for this course will combine short answer/ ID questions with multiple choice questions.

Grading Scale A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = < 59

Date	Lecture	Readings
228 Years of French Political History		
Jan 12	Introduction	Sa'adah Introduction
Jan 17	The Ancien Regime and The Revolution	Sa'adah Ch. 1 pp 15-28 Bossuet selections (online) Rousseau selections (online) Condorcet selection (online) Declaration of Rights of Man
Jan 19	The cycle of regimes 1789-1875	Sa'adah Appendix A DeMaistre selection (online) Selections from Benjamin Constant (online) Karl Marx, Communist Manifesto Chapter 2 and 4. And 18 th Bumiere of Louis Bonapare Chapter 1 (online) Victor Hugo, Napoleon le petit Book 1, sections V and VI (online)
Jan 24	The Third Republic	Sa'adah Ch. 1 pp 28-39 Jules Ferry on imperialism (online) Drumont "The Jews against France" (online) Gambetta's Belleville Manifesto (online)
Jan 26	Occupation and resistance (Film: The Sorrow and the Pity)	Sa'adah Ch. 2 pp 45-55 Camus "Letter to a German Friend I" online Sorrow and Pity handout online
Jan 31	Wrap up 3 rd Republic Legacy of WWII	Sa'adah Ch. 2 pp 55-71
Feb 2	Postwar France- the 4 th Republic	Schumann Declaration (online) 2 Pujade articles (online)
Feb 7	The Algerian War	Sa'adah Ch. 3 Camus "Letter to an Algerian Militant" "Algeria 1958" (online)
Feb 9	The 5 th Republic 1.0 – 1.1	Sa'adah Ch. 4 De. Gaulle "Bayeaux Speech" (online)
Feb 14	May 1968 and the Socialist U Turn	Sa'adah Ch. 6 Colbert Memorandum on Trade (On Moodle)
Feb 16	Cohabitations, and Fifth Republic 2.0	Sa'adah Ch. 5
Feb 21	French Political Parties since 2002	Appleton "The Formal versus Informal Rules of French Political Parties"
Feb 23	French electoral system(s)	Sa'adah Appendix C Online readings TBA
Feb 28	Mardi Gras Holiday	
March 7	Mid Term	

Institutions and Issues		
March 9	Executive & Legislative	Readings TBA
March 14	Local gvt. & Judicial System(s)	Readings TBA
March 16		Student Presentations I Historical Figures
March 21	Politics of Sex and Gender	Dauphin and Praud "Debating and implementing gender parity in French politics"
March 23	Immigration and Assimilation	Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow
March 28	Terrorism, and Security	Readings TBA
March 30	Issues of Free Expression	Readings TBA
April 4	Sovereignty and Europe	Sa'adah Ch 8
April 6	National Identity	Sa'adah Ch. 7
April 10-14	Spring Break	
April 18	2017 Presidential election	Student Presentations II Contemporary Figures
April 20	Literature and Politics	Submission
April 23	First Round French Presidential Election	
April 25	Tunisia	Readings TBA
April 27	Tunisia	Readings TBA
May 2	Final Exam 10:00-12:00	
May 7	Second Round French Presidential election	