

**France and the Revolutionary Tradition**  
**Spring 2024**  
**POS 4931 Class Number 23122**  
**Professor Leslie Anderson**

Class meeting times and place: Tuesday Period 2-3: 8:30-10:25 and Thursday 9:30-10:25 in Anderson 010

Office hours TBD after Drop/Add is over so that I know what hours work for you.

This course explores the meaning of the French Revolution and its influence on contemporary French politics. The course illustrates that the Revolution changed France fundamentally but that it also continues to shape political events, conversation and solutions today. We begin in the first part of the course by exploring the Revolution. We will learn how and why the Revolution happened, and how it resulted eventually in the coming of democracy. From there we will consider contemporary French politics, exploring modern debates and controversies. We finish the course considering contemporary problems in France, including the protest of the Yellow Jackets, the struggle over free speech, the place of Islam in France and France's steadfast support for both NATO and Ukraine.

In this class you have a midterm exam, a presentation assignment, and a final think paper. There is no final exam in this course. The final think paper is not a cumulative exam, but you will need to know all the material in order to write the paper. The exam and the think paper are at home exercises. The presentation will be an in-class exercise. I expect full attendance from everyone unless you are sick. If you are sick, please stay home. You can write to me at [landerso@ufl.edu](mailto:landerso@ufl.edu) to advise me that you are sick. Otherwise, I expect you in class.

#### Books

David Garrioch, *The Making of Revolutionary Paris*, University of California Press, 2002

Helen Drake, Alistair Cole et al., *Developments in French Politics 6* (Edited volume on France newly out November 28, 2020, this is \$50 on Amazon in paper. It is essential to use the 6<sup>th</sup> edition as the previous edition is 2013 and very out of date.)

Kelly Riccardi Colvin, *Gender and French Identity After the Second World War: Engendering Frenchness*, London, Bloomsbury Press, 2017 (this is \$40 in paper, less than than on kindle in December, 2023)

Dawn Langhan Teele, *Forging the Franchise: The Political Origins of the Women's Vote*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2018. Chapter on France

Gilles Kepel, *Terror in France: The Rise of Jihad in the West*, Princeton University Press, 2017, originally published in French as *Terreur dans l'Hexagone: Genese du Djihad francais*, Editions Gallimard, Paris, 2015, Chapters 1,2,5. I will ask that these be made available via CDL. Please read this in French if you can, available at Amazon.fr.

#### Articles

Michael Lewis-Beck and Kevin Chlarson, "Party, Ideology, Institutions and the 1995 French Presidential Election," *British Journal of Political Science* Vol 32, Issue 3, July, 2002, pp 489-512.

Emily Laxer, “‘We are all republicans’: Political Articulation and the Production of Nationhood in France’s Face Veil Debate,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 2018, Vol 60(4) pp 938-967

Patrick Chamorel, “Macron Versus the Yellow Jackets,” *Journal of Democracy*, Vol 30, Issue 4, October, 2019, pp 48-62

January 9: first class, pass out syllabus, overview of the course, discuss the class presentation

### **The French Revolution**

January 11-18 Garioch: I will assign specific chapters. Your task in these first weeks is to understand the French Revolution, why it happened, why it mattered for France and the world, what impact it would have going into the future

### **Modern French Politics**

January 23-February 1: Drake, I will assign specific chapters

February 6: The Battle over the women’s vote: How the revolution defined the fault lines  
Colvin and Teele, I will assign specific chapters

February 8: no class

February 13: Continue with the women’s vote discuss what you want to present

February 14: review for midterm exam

### **February 19-21: midterm exam**

### **Modern Electoral Politics and the Revolution**

February 26: Lewis-Beck and Chlarson

February 28: Drake, I will assign additional chapters

### **Immigration and the Clash of Civilizations: Contemporary Problems in French Politics**

March 5: Laxer

March 7: Kepel, Chapters 1

March 12-14 no class, Spring Break

March 19: Kepel 2,5

March 21: Chamorel

Here is what I want on the class presentations. Take your pick but bring us up to date

1. a presentation on the murder of Paty
2. at least one presentation on the words of the Rhone Mosques Council which condemned “blind hatred” and “murderous madness” and affirms that the religion of which the terrorist “proclaims himself does not recognize itself in him.” This references the opposition of French Moslems to the Nice 2020 stabbings and to all violence and terror. The problem is not Moslems. The problem is violence coming from people who do not follow Islam as it was meant to be.
3. a presentation on France and Ukraine
4. beyond that, I want up to date presentations on recent events. Pick your topic.

March 26: Begin class presentations

March 28: class presentations

April 2-4: class presentations

April 9-11: class presentations

April 16-18 wrap up and review. Where is France today?

April 23: Final Think Paper