

FRENCH 378 THE MAKING OF CONTEMPORARY FRANCE

This course probes the development of contemporary France by considering the moments and documents that complicate narratives of a unified cultural space.

It does this by examining how the idea of France is problematized internally by a number of opposing tendencies: its equally important revolutionary and reactionary political traditions; its determined monolingualism and, in spite of it all, thriving minor languages; its credo of a singular culture (Republicanism) in the face of ascendant multiculturalism; its anti-immigrant reflexes and its global cultural and economic ambitions.

We will do so by examining a variety of types of texts: historical, political, literary, cinematic, televisual, etc.
TAUGHT IN ENGLISH.

Course objectives: To give students an overview of the major events and movements since the Revolution that shaped contemporary France; to develop skills in both broad cultural analysis and close reading; to develop tools to articulate in a variety of forms (essay, oral presentation, etc.) advanced cultural knowledge.

