

Modern France

Last Updated: Thu, 07/31/2025

Course prefix: HTS

Course number: 3039

Section: A

CRN (you may add up to five):

93588

Instructor First Name: Nikolay

Instructor Last Name: Koposov

Semester: Fall

Academic year: 2025

Course description:

The course offers an overview of French history from the sixteenth century to the present, with an emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will examine the French historical geography, the main stages of the country's economic and social development, key political events, and the most important cultural phenomena. The course will be a combination of lectures and discussions. There will be no textbook, but PowerPoints will be provided to students after each lecture. Students are expected to attend class sessions and actively participate in class discussions.

Course learning outcomes:

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- Analytically distinguish general tendencies of historical development and specific forms that they have taken in France.
- Understand the key factors – ranging from economic development to religion – that shape the historical process; critically analyze the reasons behind specific historical events.
- Understand the specificity of the historical approach to social and cultural phenomena. Understand the difference between historical analysis and value judgment.
- Understand the historical foundations of the conceptual vocabulary used in social and human sciences and critically apply key historical concepts (such as capitalism, modernity, revolution, democracy, and others).
- Understand the distinction between primary and secondary historical sources and analyze them critically.

- Examine the major economic, social, political, and cultural events in French history from the sixteenth century to the early twenty-first century.

Required course materials:

None

Grading policy:

- Attendance and participation: 15%
- Co-teaching (two in-class presentations, 15% each): 30%
- Midterm essay: 20%
- Final essay: 35%

Attendance policy:

You are expected to attend class sessions. You are allowed three unexcused absences. For every unexcused absence after the third, you will lose half of a letter grade from your participation. You are also responsible for coming to class on time.

Participation is a significant part of your grade in this class. You are expected to contribute to classroom discussions. This will not only enhance your own learning experience but also the experience of your fellow students. Good participation entails not only speaking and sharing your thoughts regularly but also being considerate and respecting the views of others.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.