

SYLLABUS

IAFS 3500/HIST 4190: France and America: Connections Through Time

IAFS Global Seminar, 2024

Universite Montaigne Bordeaux

Bordeaux, France

Summer A Term, June 15 (Saturday)-June 29 (Saturday)

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Office hours: by appointment

This Global Seminar, based in Bordeaux, provides an opportunity to compare France - its history and contemporary culture, economy, and culture – to that of the United States.

By exploring Franco-American ties through history and selected topics, *IAFS 3500:*

France and America: Connections Through Time offers students in the International Affairs Program (IAFS) and allied departments such as Political Science, History, and Economics, as well as qualified students from the Global Studies Residential Academic Program (G-RAP), a chance to incorporate their coursework and knowledge of international affairs into a study abroad experience.

IAFS 3500 is the only course offered by the Program on International Affairs that meets the Historical Context core, and it is also cross-listed in the Department of History (in the Comparative History category as HIST 4190) and permitted to count for elective credit in the Department of Political Science. It also satisfies both the Arts and Humanities and the Social Sciences General Education requirement.

History Made and in the Making

The course will explore history in both a traditional, chronological approach, and by using history to inform the present. We will focus on comparing the systems, thought, policies, and experiences of France and America through the mid-twentieth century (the Second World War). Along the way, students will learn how history is studied (through political figures and institutions, by cultural and social “bottom-up” methods) and develop a solid base of knowledge about the history of America and France. Then, we will draw on this history to show the dynamic and creative ways history can be studied to open a window on the present, and even the future. Thus, topics are embedded in the prior history; students must understand the previous centuries of French and American experiences in a comparative fashion to comprehend these more current topics. As well, the history of each of the topics will be presented in its own right, as a means of reflecting on contemporary times. As you will see, IAFS 3500 is a hybrid: it engages in current affairs based on history.

With Bordeaux as a case study for such shared American and French issues as revolution, democracy, nation-building, war and society, trade and business, immigration, security/diplomacy/terrorism, freedom of speech, gender and sexuality, and regional/global integration, *France and America* will familiarize students with the history and contemporary relations of two of the world's most influential powers. And, it will provide a look at how they both got along or diverged, as France and America have, at times, embraced and also vilified each other.

We will ask many questions, with France being the medium for answers, such as: how did the legacy of revolutions in both countries shape their political and cultural character? What values do France and America share, and why? Why did both find themselves at war, and what were the effects of war on each? What business practices do both nations share? Why do both the French and Americans view each other as threats and friends, sometimes simultaneously? How do local politics and administration inform policy choices in each nation? What does each country mean by freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the like? Are there commonalities regarding immigration, sustainability, same-sex marriage, the status of women, and politics? Can we learn the same or different lessons from each nation's experiences with terrorism, education, and economic integration?

THE BAD STUFF:

MISSING ANY CLASSES/EVENTS/VISITS/LUNCHEES in Bordeaux will result in failure of the course.

FAILURE TO TURN IN ANY ASSIGNMENTS will result in failure of the course. LATE ASSIGNMENTS will be penalized.

French Connections will begin on the Boulder campus, with an orientation on logistics and the course itself with Professor Zeiler in April.

** After each date, the morning lecture/event is listed. Class begins at 10:00 am and goes until noon. We meet at the University. Class then moves to excursions in the afternoons, and some afternoons will start with discussions w/ Prof Zeiler.

SCHEDULE in BORDEAUX

Saturday, June 15: arrival, 7 pm, meet at Apartement Talence

Sunday, June 16: tour and free time

Monday, June 17: Prof. Dufy, *Political Economy*

READ: Cohen, "Macron Faces an Angry France Alone." *Extra readings:* From Bikinis to Burkinis"; "As France's Towns Wither"; "France's Obsession with Decline"; "Fractured France"; "Yellow Vests"; *NYT*, "National Front"

LUNCH: La Passerelle (on campus). 12:30pm and Afternoon free.

Tuesday, June 18: Prof. Darbon, *Laicite*

READ: Donadio, "Why is France so Afraid of God?" *Extra reading:* Allen, "French Burqa Ban"; "After the Paris Attacks"; "The French Don't Understand Identity Politics"; Darbon readings laicite; Colisimo, *Laicite*

And

WORLD WAR II: READ: Farmer, *Martyred Village* (The Massacre), pp. 13-28; Wyman, *The Abandonment of the Jews*, pp. 124-37; "New Monument for Cockleshell Heroes," 1-3.

Afternoon: Discussion of first two days/World War II with Zeiler
Submarine base (art and historical exhibits)

Wednesday, June 19: NO LECTURE

St. Emilion – town, catacombs, vineyard

Thursday, June 20: Prof. Labarre, *Wokism*

READ: Williams, "Wokisme"

Afternoon: Wine Museum

Friday, June 21: Prof. Delori, *Security and Terrorism*

READ: "The Numbers Game" AND

WORLD WAR II: READ: Farmer, *Martyred Village* (The Massacre), pp. 13-28; Wyman, *The Abandonment of the Jews*, pp. 124-37; "New Monument for Cockleshell Heroes," 1-3.

Afternoon: Discussion of week w/ Zeiler

Free until Monday (Don't forget Fete de la Musique – first day of summer)

****Friday afternoon/Saturday/Sunday (June 22-23) – free weekend****

Monday, June 24: Prof Costa, *EU*

READ: “White Paper on the Future of Europe”

Afternoon: Wine course at CVB

Tuesday, June 25: Prof. Lampropoulos, *Intimacy*

READ:

Afternoon: Discussion w/ Zeiler about last 2 lectures

US Consul Hector Brown

Wednesday, June 26: Prof. Gabaillet, *Culture and Clash*

READ: Giovanni, “The Fall of France”; Gabaillet, “Freedom of Speech and Unconsecrated Mass Media,” pp. 77-87; Adouard, “Behind Enemy Lines”

Afternoon: ; Grand Synagogue; Musee de la Resistance

Musee d’Aquitaine

Thursday, June 27: Prof. Hoffman, *Gender*

READ: *Feminism, Africa*

Afternoon: Class discussion about week/program w/ Zeiler

Les Soldes (sales) shopping!

Fete le Vin begins

Friday, June 28: Au revoir lunch

Saturday, June 29: DEPARTURE

Grading and Assessment (100 points total)

THREE-PART Research Paper = 60 pts

1. American Paper = 20 pts

Each student will choose a topic in Boulder, before the trip, based on the topics we will discuss in Bordeaux. This paper examines the American side of the topic. You will research this topic in April and May and hand in a 5-page essay OR outline to me upon arrival in Bordeaux. NOTE: you can simply hand in an outline before your presentation in Bordeaux.

2. Student “Expert” Presentation/Discussion in Bordeaux = 10 pts

Each student will present the American side of the topic before or during the relevant lecture in Bordeaux. The goal is to give the class comparison and contrast points before or after we hear the French side of the topic. Presentations should be no more than 3 minutes, and then we (including the professor) will discuss.

3. Reflective Comparison Essay = 20 pts

After the lecture and American side presentation/discussion, each student will incorporate the French side (5 pages) into a reflective essay (10 pages) on the topic. You can use any citation format you wish, just be consistent. You also need a bibliography.

Class Attendance/Participation = 20 pts

Active participation, including active questioning with guest lectures, discussion w/ Zeiler participation, reflections on readings, and on visits/excursions.

Photo Bordeaux Project = 20 pts

Each student will compile a 10-photo “day in the life” of Bordeaux, along a theme approved by me. These might include youth, food, wine, monuments, families, buildings, transportation, etc. I want to see the theme clearly. I will count short videos as part of this project.

The project should be accompanied by at least a page explanation. BE CREATIVE!

Final Quiz = 10 pts

A short-answer final exam/quiz the last day of the course. This will be easy for those who have been attentive in class and to the readings!

TOPICS for RESEARCH PAPERS (general categories within which you and I can find a topic)

Revolutions

Democracy/Government: ideas, ideals, and ideology; constitutions, governance – local/state/regional/provincial/national; elections; people – thinkers, politicians; institutions; reforms; protest movements

Economics: crises; banking/money; economic integration and dealing with regionalism/globalization

World War II

Art

Gender/Women

Sexuality and sexual orientation

Family

Race and racism

Anti-Americanism/Francophobia

Free speech/wokism

European Union

Africa

Euro Crisis/Great Recession

Immigration: newcomers and national ideals; work; cultural values; religion; gender roles

Terrorism