

Course Outline

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of French Studies

Course: AP/FR1005 6.0: Key Aspects of French Culture

Term: Fall 2019 / Winter 2020

Prerequisite / Co-requisite: N/A

Course credit exclusions: AP/FR 1005 9.00 (prior to Fall 2015), AP/FR 2005 9.00 (prior to Fall 2014), AP/HUMA 2005 9.00 (prior to Fall 2014). PRIOR TO FALL 2009: Course credit exclusions: AS/FR 2005 9.00.

Note: This course will not count for major or minor credit in French studies. This is an approved LA&PS General Education course: Humanities

Course Instructors

Professor: Luke Arnason
Office: Ross North 720
Office hours: Fridays, 9:30 a.m. To 10:30 a.m. or by appointment
Email: arnason@yorku.ca

Teaching assistant: Taylor Boreland, Tut. 3: taylorb1@yorku.ca

Time and Location

Lecture: Fridays, 10:30-12:30 (RS 201, Ross building, South wing)
Tutorial 1: Fridays, 12:30-1:30 (RS 105, Ross building, South wing)
Tutorial 3: Fridays, 1:30-2:30 (RS 105, Ross building, South wing)

Course description

Organization

This course is delivered through weekly lectures, followed by tutorial sessions in smaller groups. The lectures offer an overview of a given period or work, including the presentation of relevant artistic works or cultural productions such as music, artistic or architectural works, plays, operas or other literary texts. Tutorials are intended as an occasion check your understanding of course content, ask questions, and benefit from the guidance of your tutorial leader as necessary. The methodological components of the course (see below) will principally be covered and evaluated in the tutorials.

Purpose

This course explores key aspects of French culture through representative readings of major figures in literature, art, philosophy, and social and political thought, from the Renaissance to post-war France. It aims to familiarise students with the principal historical events and artistic/intellectual movements that have shaped French society over the past 500 years. It also aims to highlight some of the recurring themes, tensions and unresolved issues that have marked French history and culture. Finally, it aims to introduce students to the methodologies and techniques proper to the academic discussion of history, art and culture, including a discussion of appropriate analytic approaches, research techniques and proper writing style.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

- gain an interdisciplinary appreciation of various aspects of French culture (literary, visual, architectural, musical, etc.).
- have familiarity with the chronology and interplay between a range of historical periods and movements.
- be familiar with library research skill and understand issues of academic honesty and the conventions of bibliographical referencing.
- learn strategies to develop their critical thinking skills in the areas of reading, note-taking, presenting and defending a position, and writing that demonstrates knowledge, comprehension, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of materials read and discussed in the course.

Required textbook

- Jones, Colin. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of France*. Cambridge University Press, 1999. ISBN: 9780521669924
- Additional readings will be provided as electronic resources accessible via the Moodle site.

Evaluation

Weekly tutorial assignments (see “tutorials” below)	20%
Fall term paper (due November 8, 2019)	20%
Winter term paper (March 13, 2020)	20%
Fall term test (November 29, 2019)	20%
Winter term test (April 3, 2020)	20%

Tutorial policy

Attendance in tutorials is **mandatory**, and a student will only be deemed present if **both** the following conditions are met:

- The student is physically present to sign the attendance sheet, **and**
- **All** required tasks/assignments for that day have been completed in or prior to the tutorial (as indicated in the present course outline and/or in the tutorial Moodle site)

Tutorial tasks are all marked on a pass/fail basis (i.e. either they are completed adequately or they are not). Assignments judged inadequate (not following instructions, hand-written, obviously cobbled

together at the last minute, for example) will receive a failing grade, resulting in the student being considered absent from that tutorial meeting.

The grade for the “weekly tutorial assignments” component will be calculated as a simple percentage of the weeks in which all the above criteria are met. **Instructions for all in-tutorial assignments (indicating the criteria that must be met to receive a pass) will be posted in the tutorial Moodle site** (not the general course Moodle site).

If you cannot be present for a tutorial, you may only be excused if you give your tutorial leader at least **48 hours written notice** (by email), and complete and submit any tasks or assignments for that tutorial *prior to* its start time.

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2010-2011/academic/index.htm>)

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the LAPS section of the Undergraduate Calendar: <https://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pass-fail-option>

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment.

Written assignments are to be submitted **through Moodle** in the relevant drop box. They are to be uploaded in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format (note to Apple users, the .pages format is *not readable* and cannot be uploaded, so make sure to convert your paper to one of the above formats before uploading).

Students are required to keep a copy of the final version of any work submitted for evaluation. This includes written as well as recorded oral assignments. It is the responsibility of students to keep a copy of recorded oral assignments on the server space assigned to them by York University.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized. In all Department of French Studies courses, a **penalty of 2% per day** (Monday through Sunday) will be applied to an assignment submitted late. **One week (i.e. seven days) after the due date, an assignment will no longer be accepted** and a grade of zero assigned. Penalties may be waived under exceptional circumstances (see below «What is an exceptional circumstance») provided the student has contacted the instructor **prior** to the due date. **Requests for accommodation on or after the due date will be systematically refused.**

Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the Course Instructor but will **require supporting documentation** (e.g., a doctor’s letter).

Missed Tests: Students with a **documented** reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is **confirmed by supporting documentation** (e.g., doctor's letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Students obtaining such accommodations would be allowed to complete the test at an alternative testing session. Note that it would be the responsibility of students to make themselves available for this alternative session, which would be for all students with accommodations at once, not individually scheduled. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Student Supports

Student support services are available at York University for academic skills such as reading, writing, taking tests, presenting your ideas and even mastering Moodle (particularly useful for 1st year students). See <http://acadresources.yorku.ca/> (especially the "Academic Support Services" section). You will also find a number of useful academic support resources and links in your tutorial Moodle site.

The Centre for Academic Writing offers group and individual consultation about effective learning strategies, essay writing, and study habits. Located at 311 South Ross Building or the 2nd floor of Scott Library, phone 416-736-2100 ext. 55134, email lapswrit@yorku.ca - visit the website: www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/.

Academic Accommodations: Students with health-related, mental health, learning, physical or sensory disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods should discuss their accommodation needs with the course instructor at the beginning of the course (prior to the first assignment). Students do not need to disclose their disability. They are required to disclose information only as it pertains to the need for accommodation and any barriers or limitations. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Accessibility Services (<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>) as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided in time. Failure to make these arrangements may jeopardize your opportunity to receive academic accommodations.

More information about the various resources at your disposal at York University is available through the YU Learning Commons located in the Scott Library: <http://learningcommons.yorku.ca/>

Important Course Information for Students

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) - <https://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust2012-.pdf>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Course Calendar (Fall session)

Week 1: Fri. Sept. 6

- Introduction and overview of the course
- French geography and regions
- A few particularities of French culture and identity
- Background to next week's reading: the origins of the French State, from Gaul to the medieval Capetian dynasty.

Read for next week: Jones, Ch. 5, p.114-143, (“Valois France: The Later Middle Ages and the Renaissance”)

Week 1 Tutorial

- Overview of the purpose and functioning of tutorials
- University-level academic standards and expectations
- Explanation of assignments for next week (see also tutorial Moodle site)

Week 2: Fri. Sept. 13

- The Renaissance. Printing. Italian cultural influence. The wars of religion.

Read for next week: Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, book 1, ch. 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 21, 23, 25, 26, 42, 43, 44, 48, 52, & 57 (text available on Moodle). N.B. Reading all of the chapter titles will help you bridge the gaps between the assigned chapters. You are of course welcome to read the whole book if you like.

Week 2 Tutorial

- A detailed look at the essay instructions. Suggestions, pitfalls, considerations for choosing a topic.
- The purpose and particularities of academic writing

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- SPARK, Understanding the Assignment quiz

Week 3: Fri. Sept. 20

- Rabelais. The humanist mindset and aesthetic. Scatology and erudition.

Read for next week: Jones, Ch. 6, p.144-158 (“The Counter-Reformation” and “The Making of Absolutism” sections only)

Week 3 Tutorial

- Study habits, avoiding distractions, etc.

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- SPARK time management quiz

Week 4: Fri. Sept. 27

-The early 17th century. The 30 years war. Richelieu and Mazarin. The Fronde. The flowering of French culture in the baroque era.

Read for next week: Jones, Ch. 6, p. 158-164 (“Louis XIV's Absolutism”)

Week 4 Tutorial

- Academic research: acceptable and unacceptable sources, and the notion of peer review.
- Different types of research resources (reference works, books, articles) and how to find them
- Discipline-specific resources and approaches, and using appropriate research guides

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Choose a topic for your Fall essay

Week 5: Fri. Oct. 4

-Louis XIV and the *Grand Siècle*. Court life at Versailles. The apogee of French power, art and culture.

Read for next week: Moliere, *The Middle-Class Gentleman (Le Bourgeois gentilhomme)*
(reading available on Moodle)

Week 5 Tutorial

- Principles of academic honesty and integrity

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Draft of “description” and “context” sections of essay

Week 6: Fri. Oct. 11

-Moliere. Satire in the age of absolutism. The social ideal of *l'honnêteté*. Theatre, music, ballet, and spectacle in the French court.

Read for next week: Jones, Ch. 6, p. 164-175 (“The Age of Enlightenment”)

Week 6 Tutorial

- Formatting of notes and bibliographies

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- SPARK academic integrity quiz

NO CLASS FRIDAY OCTOBER 18

Week 7: Fri. Oct. 25

-The French enlightenment.

Read for next week: Voltaire, *The Huron (L'Ingénu)* (text available on Moodle)

Week 7 Tutorial

-Argumentation and nuance in academic writing.

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Draft of bibliography of essay
- SPARK essay editing quiz

Week 8: Fri. Nov. 1

-Voltaire and the *Philosophes*.

Read for next week: Jones, Ch. 7, p.177-193 (“1789: The “Great Revolution”, “From Monarchy to Republic” sections)

Week 8 Tutorial

-Writing workshop based on submitted drafts

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Draft of “critical reception” and “analysis” sections of essay
- SPARK revising your arguments quiz

Week 9: Fri. Nov. 8

-The French revolution and the Terror.

Read for next week: Jones, Ch. 7, p.193-211 (“Napoleonic France”, “From Restoration to Republic” and “The Second Republic”)

Essays due (submit in Moodle)

Week 9 Tutorial

-A look at the Fall term test study guide

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept

Week 10: Fri. Nov. 15

-Napoleon: the Consulate and Empire. The Restoration and the second republic.

Read for next week: Balzac, *Le Colonel Chabert* (text available on Moodle)

Week 10 Tutorial

- The purpose of tests. How to answer a test question. Understanding the purpose of the question and level of detail required.
- Time management on a test

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept

Week 11: Fri. Nov. 22

-Balzac's *Comédie humaine* and literary “realism”. Review.

Week 11 Tutorial

- Common test pitfalls to avoid
- Review questions
- Identifying the main themes of the term

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Prepare at least one review question (on course content, *not* on test format)

Week 12: Fri. Nov. 29

-Term test (20%)

Read for next class: Jones, Ch. 8, p. 212-225 (“Napoleon III and the Second Empire”, “The Commune and the Politics of the Third Republic”)

No tutorial this week

Course Calendar (Winter session)

Week 1: Fri. Jan. 10

-The Second Empire and Paris Commune.

Watch for next week: Bizet, *Carmen*. (link to film available on Moodle)

Week 1 Tutorial

-Fall term tests returned
-Remarks, reminders, suggestions on tests

Week 2: Fri. Jan. 17

-The rise of Naturalism in the 19th century. *Carmen* as a paradoxical mix of escapism and naturalism.

Read for next week: Flaubert, *A Simple Soul (Un coeur simple)* (text available on Moodle)

Week 2 Tutorial

-Detailed correction of Fall term test

Assignment(s):

-Presentation of a key concept
-Correct response to part B and re-working of your answer to test question 12

Week 3: Fri. Jan. 24

-Flaubert, Zola and the Goncourt brothers. The condition of the working classes in 19th century France.

Read for next week: Jones: Ch. 8: p. 225-241 (“The New Materialism of the *Belle Epoque*”) and Ch. 9, p. 248-260 (“The aftermath of World War I” and “The Third Republic in Question”)

Week 3 Tutorial

-Recap of main issues on Fall term essays, and main pitfalls to avoid / strategies to adopt.

Assignment(s):

-Presentation of a key concept
-Re-written/corrected version of the section of your Fall essay that received the most comments/corrections.

Week 4: Fri. Jan. 31

-The *belle époque* and *entre-deux-guerres* period. Modernist thought and art in France.

Read for next week: Jones, Ch. 9, p. 261-275 (“From the Popular Front to the Fall of France (1936-1940)”, “Vichy, Occupation and Resistance”).

Also Watch Tati, *Jour de fête* (link to video on Moodle)

Week 4 Tutorial

-Academic writing workshop: how to describe / summarise a work or cultural artefact
-How to objectively measure the impact of social/historical context on a specific work or cultural artefact.

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Choose a topic for your Winter essay

Week 5: Fri. Feb. 7

-Vichy, and the resistance.

Read for next week: Jones, Ch. 10: p. 276-292 (“Recrimination and Stabilization”, “Decolonization and the Advent of the Fifth Republic”, “The 'Thirty Glorious Years'”)

Week 5 Tutorial

-Writing workshop based on submitted drafts

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Draft of “description” and “context” sections of essay

Week 6: Fri. Feb. 14

-The post-war generation and existentialism.

Watch for next class: Sartre, *No Exit (Huis clos)* (Link to video available in Moodle site)

Week 6 Tutorial

-Refresher course on notes and bibliographies, and the finer details of formatting.

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept

Friday, February 21: No class due to reading week

Week 7: Fri. Feb. 28

-Study of *No Exit* and French existentialist philosophy, literature and theatre.

Read for next week: Jones, Ch. 10, p. 292-302 (“The events of May 1968”).

Week 7 Tutorial

- Understanding the importance of critical reception on the cultural impact of an artist or work
- How to respectfully disagree with an expert
- Making a nuanced assessment of a work or argument (how to concede one point but raise another, shift the focus of a debate, call into question the relevance of an argument, underline and explain bias, etc.)

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Draft of bibliography of essay

Week 8: Fri. Mar. 6

-The *soixante-huitarde* generation and its legacy.

Watch for next week: Godard, *Breathless (A bout de souffle)* (link to video available in the Moodle site)

Week 8 Tutorial

-Concrete revision of drafts, and final suggestions for the essay.

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Draft of “critical reception” and “analysis” sections of essay

Week 9: Fri. Mar. 13

-French cinema and music. The “Golden Age”, the *nouvelle vague*, and contemporary French cinema.

Essays due (submit in Moodle)

Week 9 Tutorial

-Further discussion of some points raised in class

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept

Week 10: Fri. Mar. 20

-French gastronomy. The *repas gastronomique*. The concept of *terroir* and regional cuisines.

Week 10 Tutorial

-Further discussion of some points raised in class
-Review of test strategies, esp. understanding the purpose of the question, level of detail required and time management.

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Guess/propose a test question

Week 11: Fri. Mar. 27

-French wine. *Appellation* vs. *cépage*. Main wine-producing regions and their characteristics.
Conclusion and review.

Week 11 Tutorial

- Common test pitfalls to avoid (esp. based on previous test)
- Review questions
- Identifying the main themes of the course

Assignment(s):

- Presentation of a key concept
- Prepare at least one review question (on course content, *not* on test format)

Week 12: Fri. Apr. 3

-Term test (20%)

No tutorial this week