

FW(Y) 2025-26

AP/FR 1005 A 9.0 (Y)	Key Aspects of French Culture
Course Director:	Name: Luke Arnason Office: N 739 Ext.: 30183 E-mail: arnason@yorku.ca Office hours: Friday 9:30-10:30am
Time:	LECT F 12:30-14:30 TUTR (1-3) F 10:30-12:30 TUTR (4-6) F 14 :30-16 :30
Delivery Format:	☐ LECTURE/TUTORIALS
Course Description:	This course gives students the opportunity to discover the greatest figures in French culture from explores key aspects of French culture from the Renaissance to post-war era through their works. Areas studies include cinema, theatre, music, visual arts, political thought, literature, wine and gastronomy. The course also offers comprehensive training and practice in academic research and writing skills. This General Education course taught in English aims to familiarise students with the principal people, works and artistic/intellectual movements that have shaped French society over the past 500 years. It also highlights some of the recurring themes, tensions and unresolved issues that have marked French history and culture in the aim of illustrating how Francophone culture has shaped the wider world, and also in what respect it differs from English and North American culture. Another major objective of the course is to train students in the expectations, habit and methods that underpin academic study: reading, note-taking, study habit, time management, library research, citation styles, academic writing style and the relationship of writing and editing critical thinking and reasoning.
Required Reading List:	Jones, Colin. <i>The Cambridge Illustrated History of France</i>. Cambridge University Press, 1999. ISBN: 9780521669924 Additional readings will be provided as electronic resources accessible via the eClass site.
Prerequisites:	NA (open to all undergraduate students who need a Humanities GEN ED credit).
Weighting of Course	Weekly tasks: 25% Fall essay: 15% Winter essay: 20% Fall term test: 15%

	Winter term test: 25%
Organization of the course	This course is organised as a two-hour lecture plus a two-hour tutorial. The lecture will be devoted to the historical and cultural content (overview of a given period or work, presentation of relevant artistic works or cultural productions such as music, artistic or architectural works, plays, operas or other literary texts), while the tutorial will be primarily devoted to practicing study skills, academic writing and research methodology, with a secondary focus on reviewing or clarifying course content. Weekly tasks will have to be prepared for the start of each tutorial meeting (as listed on eClass).
Course Learning Objectives	By the end of this course, students will be able to: • Recognise the chronology and significance of the main historical periods of early modern and modern French history (c. 1500-1970). • Be able to recognise the different artistic and philosophical movements associated with this period, order them chronologically, and summarize their essential characteristics and relevance. • Reflect on the principal cultural differences between French and Canadian/Anglo-Saxon culture, especially as it relates to politics, religion, and the tensions between the individual and society. • Understand the principles of academic honesty and the conventions of bibliographical referencing. • Understand the specific function of academic writing and research (relative to other forms of writing) and the stylistic conventions stemming from it. • Recognise the different categories of research documentation (reference works, articles, etc.) and be able to evaluate the relevance and quality of a research source, thus constituting a relevant and high-quality bibliographic base for research assignments. • Gain practice with critical thinking and argumentation skills as they relate to discussions of culture and history.
Additional Information/Notes	