

**THE AMERICAN
BUSINESS SCHOOL
PARIS**

COURSE TITLE : **MODERN FRANCE**

COURSE NUMBER : HIS 431

CREDITS : 3

PREREQUISITES : European History courses

SEMESTER HOURS : 45

OFFERED : SUMMER

COURSE DESCRIPTION :

The objective of the course is to introduce students to the narrative history of modern France and to give them an understanding of France's role in European and world affairs since 1789.

We will accept the idea that something different and decidedly modern begins to emerge in France with the inauguration of the French Revolution. The time span of the course will run from 1789 to 1981. The course will trace the twists and turns of the French nation's attempt to hammer out, agree to and refine something akin to modernity.

The course will thus travel the path of modern France's historical evolution, encounter some of its most celebrated literary and political personalities and examine some of its most enduring obstacles to achieving the principles of its own revolutionary platform, "liberty, equality, and fraternity."

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY :

Subjects covered in class will be :

- the rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte, 1789-1815
- the emergence of the industrial progress with a network of modern railroads, the pasteurization of milk
- the development of modern ballet and a world-wide revolution in painting known as Impressionism
- the French middle class, eager to compete with its European and American rivals, embarked upon an ambitious project to colonize much of the world and its natural resources
- the rise of the working class, with the general striken political parties and revolutionary manifestos

TEXTS : ***The Black Jacobins***, C.L.R.James; ***Democracy in America***, Alexis de Tocqueville;

Bel-Ami, Guy de Maupassant, English translation; ***France & the Dreyfus Affair***, Michael Burns; ***Man's Fate***, André Malraux; ***Flight to Arras***, Antoine de Saint Exupery; ***The Lover***, Marguerite Duras; ***A History of Modern France***, Jeremy Popkin

EVALUATION : class presentations 30%; research paper 20%, midterm 20%, final essay 30%