

## ***EUH 3931: Nineteenth-Century France: Politics, Society, and Culture***

### **Time and Location:**

MWF 12:50PM-1:40PM

Flint Hall 0119

### **Instructor Information**

- Instructor: Dr. Lucia Curta
- Email: lcurta@ufl.edu
- Office hours: MW 1:45PM-3:00PM
- Office location: Flint Hall

### **Course Description**

*Nineteenth-Century France: Politics, Society, and Culture* will examine the profound transformations that reshaped France in the nineteenth century. The course begins with the intellectual and cultural currents of the eighteenth century—particularly Enlightenment critiques of monarchy, privilege, and social inequality - that set the stage for the French Revolution. From this foundation, students follow the emergence of new political cultures and institutions as France moved through successive regimes, including the First Empire, the Restoration, the July Monarchy, the Second Republic, the Second Empire, and the Third Republic.

Alongside political change, the course will explore the social and economic transformations that altered French life: industrialization, urbanization, class conflict, shifting gender roles, and the expansion of colonial ambitions. Cultural movements such as Romanticism, Realism, and Impressionism are examined as both reflections of and responses to a rapidly changing world.

Students will engage with a wide range of primary sources - philosophical writings, political documents, memoirs, literature and, art. By the end of the course, they will be able to interpret nineteenth-century French history across political, social, and cultural dimensions, understand the revolution's Enlightenment roots, and assess how the period's transformations shaped modern France and its global legacy.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how Enlightenment ideas contributed to the origins of the French Revolution.
2. Trace major political transitions from 1789 to 1900 and evaluate their consequences.
3. Analyze the impact of industrialization, urbanization, and class formation on French society.
4. Interpret primary sources (political documents, philosophical texts, literature, images, architecture).
5. Assess the development of cultural movements such as Romanticism, Realism, and Impressionism.

6. Develop persuasive historical arguments in written and oral form.

## Textbooks

- Popkin, Jeremy D. *A History of Modern France*. Fifth edition. New York, New York ; Routledge, 2020. ISBN:9780521564946
- Mason, Laura, and Rizzo, Tracey, eds. *The French Revolution: A Document Collection*. 2nd ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2023. ISBN: 9781647920906
- Selected primary sources and articles (posted online)

## Assignments and Grading Policies

You are responsible for attending all lectures and reading the required texts. Class participation may be considered to determine the overall grade. The basis for evaluation of performance will be weekly reading responses and three quizzes.

### 1. Weekly Reading Responses - 70%

- **14 weekly reading responses** (500 words each)
- Each week, students will submit a short-written response based on that week's assigned readings from Popkin, Mason & Rizzo, and any posted primary sources.
- **Due: Fridays by 11:59 PM** on Canvas

### 2. Quizzes - 30%

Quizzes are not cumulative. There is no make-up for quizzes. Extra-credit work will be accepted only for students with active participation in class discussions. The format of the extra-credit option shall be discussed with the instructor during regular office hours.

The following point system will be used in determining the final grade:

Weekly Reading Responses:  $14 \times 5 = 70$  points

Quizzes:  $3 \times 10 = 30$  points

Total: 100 points

The following scale will be used in determining your final grade.

Points	Grade
95-100	A
90-94	A-
87-90	B+
81-86	B
75-80	B-

68-74	C+
61-67	C
55-60	C-
48-54	D+
41-47	D
35-40	D-
under 30	E

## Required Policies

### Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results>.

### University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to the appropriate personnel.

### **Weekly Topics:**

#### **January 12, 14, 16:** Introduction

French Society in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
Intellectual Thought

Read: *Popkin*, 1-17; 18-24  
*Mason & Rizzo*: 9-22; 30-41

**January 21, 23:** Crisis of the Absolutist System  
Collapse of the Old Monarchy

Read: *Popkin*, 25-40; 41-50  
*Mason & Rizzo*: 42-56; 57-64; 74-78

**January 26, 28, 30:** The Liberal Revolution and the Reorganization of France  
The Radical Revolution  
Revolutionary Culture

Read: *Popkin*, 41-61  
*Mason & Rizzo*: 87-91; 99-106; 113-119; 143-148; 153-155; 158-160; 165-166; 190-191; 194-196; 223-226; 238-240;

**February 2, 4, 6:** Return to Order  
Napoleon and the French imperial system

Read: *Popkin*, 63-82  
*Mason & Rizzo*: 295-300; 329-340; 249-250  
[\*Brumaire: Bonaparte's Justification\*](#)  
[\*Napoleon's Account of the Internal Situation of France in 1804\*](#)  
[\*The French Civil Code \(1804\)\*](#)  
[\*The Civil Code \(full text\)\*](#)  
[\*Napoleon's Reasons for Making Himself Emperor \(December 1804\)\*](#)  
[\*Making Peace with the Catholic Church, 1801-2\*](#)  
[\*From the Imperial Catechism \(1806\)\*](#)  
[\*Farewell to the Old Guard \(1814\)\*](#)

**February 9, 11, 13:** Quiz  
The Restauration  
The Return of the Bourbons  
Consolidation of the Constitutional Monarchy

Read: *Popkin*, 83-90  
[\*The Frankfort Declaration\*](#)  
[\*Documents on the Restauration of the Monarchy\*](#)  
[\*The Bourbon Restoration, 1814-1830: Translations of primary source documents\*](#)  
[\*Charles X: The July Ordinances, 1830\*](#)  
YouTube: [\*Rossini, Il viaggio a Reims\*](#) (*The Journey to Reims, or The Hotel of the Golden Fleur-de-lis*)  
[Note: YouTube links are not always very stable. If this fails, simply search for the title on YouTube]

**February 16, 18, 20:** The Revolution of 1830  
The July Monarchy

Read: *Popkin*, 90-101  
[\*Documents on the July Monarchy\*](#)

[The French Constitution of the 1830](#)  
[François Guizot \(1787-1874\): Condition of the July Monarchy](#)  
[Alexander Ledru-Rollin: Speech to the Electors of Sarthe, 1841](#)

**February 23, 25, 27:** New Social Order  
Cultural Trends (Romanticism, Realism)

Read: *Popkin, 102-114*

[Charles Baudelaire: What is Romanticism?](#)  
[Antoine-Jean Gros, Napoleon on the Battlefield of Elyau 1808](#)  
[Eugene Delacroix, Liberty Leading the People 1830](#)  
[Kathryn Calley Galitz: Romanticism \[Metropolitan Museum NYC\]](#)  
[Realism in France](#)

**March 2, 4, 6:** The Revolution of 1848  
Louis Napoleon Bonaparte

Read: *Popkin, 114-123*

[Documents of the Revolution of 1848](#)  
[Marx and Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party \(1948\)](#)  
[Alphonse de Lamartine \(1790-1869\): History of the Revolution of 1848 in France](#)  
[Percy B. St. John: The French Revolution in 1848](#)

**March 9, 11, 13:** Quiz  
Bonapartism: The Second French Empire (1852-1870)  
Haussmann's rebuilding of Paris

Read: *Popkin, 124-132*

[Louis Napoleon: Excerpts from Speeches 1851 and 1852](#)  
[Léon Gambetta \(1838-82\): The Belleville Manifesto, 1869](#)  
[Paris: Before and after Haussmann](#)  
[Exploring Haussmannian Paris](#)

**March 14 – 22:** Spring Break

**March 23, 25, 27:** Crises of the Second French Empire  
Cultural developments, Impressionism  
Positivism, Marxism

Read: *Popkin, 133-140*

[Impressionism: Art and Modernity](#)  
[Impressionism, 1860-1900](#)  
[Positivism, The 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Comte to Mach](#)  
[Karl Thompson, Auguste Comte: Positivism and the scientific study of Society](#)  
[Auguste Comte, The Work](#)  
[Julia Nicholls, The Origins of Marxism in Modern France](#)

**March 30, April 1, 3:** Franco – Prussian War  
The Paris Commune

Read: *Popkin, 141-150*

[Original and Edited Versions of the Ems Dispatch](#) July 13, 1870

[A War Correspondent in the Franco-Prussian War](#), 1870

[The Paris Commune - Archive and Documents](#)

[Chronology of the Civil War in France](#), 1871

[First Address of the General Council of the International Working Men's Association on the Franco-Prussian War](#), 1870

[Second Address of the General Council of the International Working Men's Association on the Franco-Prussian War](#), 1870

[Address of the General Council of the International Working Men's Association on the Civil War in France](#), 1871

John Leighton: [One Day Under the Paris Commune](#), 1871

Eugène Edine Pottier: [The Internationale](#), June 1871

YouTube: [The Internationale](#) in French.

**April 6, 8, 10:** The Third Republic

Parliamentary Democracy

Expanding the Empire

The Social Basis of the Republic

Read: *Popkin, 151-160*

[Constitutional Laws of 1875](#)

[Constitutional Laws of France, April 1875 \(full text\)](#)

[Law on Associations](#) of 1 July 1901, in French

[Law on the Separation of Churches and State](#). 9 Dec 1905

**April 13, 15, 17:** Economic Depression and Political Crises

The Boulanger Affair

The Dreyfus Affair

Read: *Popkin, 161-178*

[Alfred Dreyfus](#)

[Emile Zola, Open letter to the President of the French Republic](#)

**April 20, 22:** Culture and Society in Fin de Siècle

The Belle Epoque

Quiz

Read: *Popkin, 179-200*

[Mark Micale, France \(Chapter 6\)](#)