This course will explore the transformation of France from the Old Regime monarchy of the late eighteenth century to the early Third Republic of the 1870s. We will focus first on the French Revolution, its origins, dynamics and consequences. We will then study the political, social, and cultural conflicts that help explain why the French went through three more revolutions—in 1830, 1848, and 1871—before establishing a stable form of republican government. Although political history stands at the center of this course, we will also devote much of our time to social and cultural history, and especially to recent literature on working-class formation, gender relations, and the peasantry. France, after all, underwent enormous change during this period. Cities grew, new forms of commerce and industry emerged, Paris flourished as an extraordinary international center of artistic and intellectual creativity, and the countryside became integrated into a national culture as never before. At the same time, many customary ways of thinking endured that we associate with the Old Regime Why this mixture of continuity and change evolved as it did remains the subject of sharp debate among scholars. We will enter into these controversies ourselves as we work on three levels: deepening our knowledge about France; mastering the historiographical debates; and bringing our own perspectives to the subject through writing and conversation.

Because this is a discussion course its quality depends on everyone preparing the material and participating in class. Four papers are also required. Each should address the reading for a particular week and is due at 5:00 p.m. on the day before class. Two papers should be about 5 pages in length. Two should be about 8 pages in length. Students with a strong interest in writing a longer term paper of about 15 pages may do so; they should also write one 5-page and one 8-page class paper, instead of the required four class papers.

The required reading is available on reserve in the salle de lecture at the Institute of French Studies as well as in the reserve room at Bobst Library. In addition, the following books have been ordered for purchase at the NYU Bookstore:

Recommended: (general works)
Heinz-Gerhard Haupt, *Histoire social de la France depuis 1789*.
Claire Goldberg Moses, *French Feminism in the Nineteenth Century*.
Peter McPhee, *A Social History of France, 1770-1871*.
Honore Balzac, *The Human Comedy*.

Week 2 (Sept. 15) - **The Ancien Regime**
Required:
Recommended:

Week 3 (Sept. 22) - **The French Revolution I**
Required:
Wright, chs. 5 and 6.
Furet, *Revolutionary France*, chs. 2-4.
Albert Soboul, *A Short History of the French Revolution*.
Francois Furet, *Interpreting the French Revolution*, essay on "the catechism."
Recommended:
**Week 4 (Sept. 29) - The French Revolution II**

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

**Week 5 (Oct. 6) - Napoleon and the Empire**

**Required:**
Wright, ch. 7.
Furet, *Revolutionary France*, ch. 5.

**Recommended:**

**Week 6 (Oct. 13) - Restoration and the Revolution of 1830**

**Required:**
Wright, ch. 9.
Furet, ch. 6, ch. 7 (pp. 326-336).

**Recommended:**
Alan B. Spitzer, *The French Generation of 1820*.

**Week 7 (Oct. 20) - Class Formation and Revolutionary Politics**

**Required:**
Week 8 (Oct. 27) - The Revolution of 1848

Required:
Wright, ch. 11 and 12.
Furet, ch. 7 (pp. 333-384) and ch. 8.

Joan Wallach Scott, Only Paradoxes to Offer: French Feminists and the Rights of Man (1996), ch. 3.

Recommended:
David Pinkney, Decisive Years in France, 1840-1847 (1986).
Mark Traugott, Armies of the Poor: Determinants of Working-Class Participation in the Parisian Insurrection of June 1848 (1985)

Gustave Flaubert, Sentimental Education.

Week 9 (Nov. 3) - The Second Empire

Required:
Wright, chs. 12 and 13.
Furet, ch. 9.

David H. Pinkney, Napoleon III and the Rebuilding of Paris (1958), selected chapters.

Recommended:
Alain Plessis, The Rise and Fall of the Second Empire, 1852-1871
Karl Marx, The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte (1852).
Albert Guerard, Napoleon III (1943).
Martin Nadaud, Leonard, macon de la Creuse (1895).

Week 10 (Nov. 10) - Women, Work, and Gender
Required:
Wright, ch. 14.

Recommended:
Alain Corbin, Women for Hire: Prostitution and Sexuality in France after 1850.

Week 11 (Nov 17) - Art and Experience in the City
Required:
Wright, chapter 15.

Recommended:

Week 12 (Dec. 24) - The Paris Commune
Required:
Furet, ch. 10.

Recommended:
Jacques Rougerie, Proces des communards (1964)
Prosper-Olivier Lissagaray, History of the Commune of 1871 (1886).
Roger Williams, The French Revolution of 1870-71

Week 13 (Dec. 1) - Creating a Third Republic
Required:
Wright, chs. 16 and 18.

Recommended:
Sudhir Hazareesingh, From Subject to Citizen: The Second Empire and the Emergence of Modern French Democracy (1998).
David Thompson, Democracy in France since 1870 (1969).

Week 14 (Dec. 8) - **Nation-Building and the Peasantry**

Required:

Recommended: