THE FRENCH ECONOMY: PAST AND PRESENT

This course explores the historical development and contemporary dynamics of the French economy. We begin with a survey of recent trends and then ask what kinds of historical inquiries might help explain them. We then explore industrialization in nineteenth-century France, the economics of empire, the rise of large-scale modern enterprises, and the impact of the two world wars and Great Depression in the twentieth century. For the rest of the term we concentrate on the French economy since 1945. After exploring how the French economy has evolved in relationship to the European Community, we focus on several aspects of economic policy, including planning and industrial policy, monetary policy and finance, employment policy and labor relations, regional decline and development, agriculture, the welfare state, and issues of trade and globalization in a rapidly changing international economy.

There are no prerequisites for the course, though students should be familiar with the basic concepts and terminology commonly taught in introductory economics courses. Likewise, some familiarity with the political history of twentieth-century France and of postwar Europe is essential. Be sure to ask the professor about additional background reading if at any point in the course you feel it would help you.

Because this is a discussion course, its quality depends on everyone preparing the material and participating in class. Three papers are required: two 5 to 7-page papers on the central themes involved in the reading for two different weeks of the course, due in class when the reading will be discussed, and a 15-page term paper on a topic worked out in discussion with the instructor and due on Friday, December 15. Grading is as follows: class participation (20%), short papers (20% each), and the final term paper (40%). Students will be asked to make brief presentations during the weeks when their short papers are due.
The following books are available in paperback at the NYU campus bookstore:


**Class Schedule**

**Sept. 12 B Introduction**

**Sept. 19 B Current Trends in Historical Perspective**


**Sept. 26 B Industrialization and Empire**

Required:


Recommended:


Oct. 3 B The Rise of Dirigisme in the Twentieth Century

Required:


Recommended:


Oct. 10 B Structure and Strategy in Twentieth-Century Enterprise

Required:


Recommended:


"Les Racines de l'entreprise," special issue of Revue française de gestion 70 (September-October 1988).

Marc Meuleau, "From Inheritors to Managers: The Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales and Business Firms," in Cassis, Crouzet, and Gouvish, pp. 128-146.


**Oct. 17 B State Economic Management and Planning after 1945**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**Oct. 24 B France and the European Community**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


Simon Bulmer, "History and Institutions of the European Union," in *The Economics of the European Union: Policy and Analysis*, edited by Mike Artis and Norman Lee (New York:...
Oxford University Press, 1994).


**Oct. 30 B The Great Transformation (Industrial Policy)**

Required:


Recommended:


Articles on banking, steel, etc., in Le Capitalisme français, XIXe-XXe siècle: blocages et dynamismes d'une croissance edited by Patrick Fridenson and André Straus (Paris: Fayard, 1987).


**Nov. 7 B The Great Transformation II (Finance, Monetary Policy and Managerial Culture)**

**Required:**

Vivien Schmidt, *From State to Market*, selected pages.


**Recommended:**


Nov. 14 B Employment, Unemployment and Labor Relations

Required:


Recommended:


Mark Kesselman, "Does the French Labor Movement Have a Future?" in John T. S. Keeler and Martin A. Schain, eds., *Chirac’s Challenge: Liberalization, Europeanization, and Malaise in*

Christel Lane, Industry and Society in Europe: Stability and Change in Britain, Germany and France (Brookfield, Vt.: Edward Elgar, 1995), chapter 7, "The Transformation of Industrial Relations," pp. 120-144.

George Ross, Peter Lange and Maurizio Vannicelli, Unions, Change and Crisis (New York: Allen and Unwin, 1982).


Annie Sabourin-Ragnaud, "Equality Between Men and Women in the Workplace," in France and EC Membership Evaluated.


**Nov. 21 B Regional Decline and Development**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**Nov. 28 B Agriculture**

Required:


“Dossier: Charting the Future of French Farming,” *French Politics, Culture & Society* 18, 1 (Spring 2000), essays by Susan Carol Rogers, François Clerc, and Bertrand Hervieu.

Recommended:


Gordon Wright, *Rural Revolution in France: The Peasantry in the Twentieth Century*


**Dec. 5 B The Welfare State**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


Elinor A. Accampo, Rachel G. Fuchs, and Mary Lynn Stewart, Gender and the Politics of Social Reform in France, 1870-1914 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995).


Dec. 12 B Trade and Globalization


Recommended:


Le Commerce extérieur français de Méline à nos jours Colloque tenu à Bercy le 3 juin 1992 (Association pour le développement de l'histoire économique, Comité pour l'histoire économique et financière de la France, 1992).