An introduction to the social analysis of contemporary France, this course has two purposes: to consider some of the analytic tools used by French anthropologists and sociologists, and to explore some key issues and characteristics of everyday French life today. Drawing primarily on monographs by French scholars, we will examine the ways they have deployed analyses of institutions, ritual practices, exchange systems, and social reproduction to illuminate the experience of social diversity, solidarity, and disarray in late 20th century France. Monographic material to be used includes studies of immigrants, ghetto youth, factory workers, aristocrats, politicians, a gentrifying Parisian neighborhood, and a developing ski area.

*Course taught in English but requires reading knowledge of French.
Back to top