This class will explore political, historical and sociological aspects of the formation of the French nation. It will interrogate the notion of "national identity" through an exploration of how nation building in France has been shaped by colonization and immigration since the early nineteenth century. In this context, the long and complex relationship between Algeria and France will receive special attention. The last sessions of the class will concentrate on the legacy of colonization and the many questions raised by immigration in contemporary French society.

While France will be the main focus of the class, examples will be drawn from other European countries and from the United States in order to build a comparative approach to the intellectual, political and social histories of national formation.

Course Requirements

Class participation: 20%
Class memos: 30%
During the course of the semester, students are responsible for writing 3 brief memos analyzing the week's readings (NO MORE THAN 3 PAGES). These must be sent to all participants on Tuesday before 12:00 am. Memos should not be a summary of the readings but a spur to discussion. They should be organized as (1) an argumentative discussion of the readings' main analytical and empirical points and (2) a list of questions (3 to 5 questions) about the readings that you would like to discuss in class.
Research Paper (15-20 pages): 50%
In order to prepare for the paper, you will have to submit a 2-3 pages research proposal by November 21. The proposal should state the research topic (formulated as a question rather than as just a theme) and a provisional bibliography. You will have the occasion to discuss the proposal during office hours. The research paper is due on Monday, December 16 at 10:00 am.

Suggested Purchases (NYU bookstore):

1-Introduction
September 5

2-A French Model for the Nation?
September 12

Excerpts from Rousseau, Social Contract (1762)
Sieyes, What is the Third Estate? (1789)
Jules Michelet, History of France (1833)
Ernest Renan, What is a Nation? (1882)
(Excerpts will be made available in the Salle de lecture)


Rogers Brubaker, Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany, Harvard University Press, 1992 (introduction and chapter 2, pp. 1-17 and 35-49)


Suggested readings

3- Instituting the Nation
September 19


Suggested readings

4-Colonization and National Identity
September 26

Robert Aldrich, Greater France: A History of French Overseas Expansion, MacMillan, 1996. (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 8)


Suggested readings

5-Colonial Situations
October 3


Read:
Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler "Between Metropole and Colony" (pp. 1-56); Ann Stoler, "Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers: European Identities and the Cultural Politics of Exclusion in Colonial Southeast Asia" (pp. 198-237) and Gwendolyn Wright "Tradition in the Service of Modernity" (pp. 322-345).

Suggested readings

6-Colonial Algeria
October 10


Suggested readings
Albert Camus, Le premier Homme, Gallimard, 1994
Daniel Rivet, Le Maghreb à l'épreuve de la colonisation, Paris, Hachette Littératures, 2002

7-Immigration: history
October 17

Suggested readings

8-Immigration: sociology
October 25

Les Immigrés en France, Portrait social, Insee, 1997, Chapters 1 and 2 (pp 12-23; 26-39)

Michelle Tribalat, Faire France, Une enquête sur les immigrés et leurs enfants, Paris, La Découverte, 1995. Introduction and Chapters 1-4 (pp. 8-111), chapter 8 and conclusion (pp. 183-225).

Suggested readings

9-Algerian Immigration: an examplary immigration?
October 31


Suggested readings

10- Nationality and Citizenship
November 7


Patrick Weil, Qu'est-ce qu'un Français? Histoire de la nationalité française depuis la Révolution, Paris, Grasset, 2002 (chapters 4 and 8 pp. 97-134 and 211-246)


Suggested readings

11- Integration
November 14

Haut Commissariat à l'Intégration, L'Intégration à la Française, Paris, UGE, 1993 (Première Partie: "Pour un modèle français d'intégration", pp. 21-58)


Dominique Schnapper, La France de l'intégration, Paris, Gallimard, 1990 (chapitre 2, pp. 71-104)


Gérard Noiriel et Stéphane Beaud, "Penser l'intégration des Immigrés", in Hommes et migrations, 1133, juin 1990, pp. 43-53.
Abdelmalek Sayad, "Qu'est-ce que l'Intégration?" In Hommes et Migrations, 1182, décembre 1994, pp. 8-14.

Suggested readings
Michel Wievorka, ed, Une Société fragmentée, Le multiculturalisme en débat, La Découverte/ Poche, Essais. 1996

12. Race and racism
November 21


Suggested readings

13- Race, policies and politics
December 5


Programme du FN on line (can be downloaded on http://www.frontnational.com/)


Suggested Readings
French Politics, Culture and Society, volume 18, n°3, Fall 2000, special issue on "Race in France".
14. Comparisons
December 11


Suggested readings