This semester we will consider the history of France from roughly 1914 to the present. The course begins with what some have called the Thirty-One Years War (1914-45) of the twentieth century when France as a nation was nearly destroyed twice over. En route we consider the cultural upheaval of the post-1918 period, the rise of fascism à la française, and the incipient civil war of the 1930s. We turn next to what the historian Marc Bloch called the "strange defeat" of June 1940 and to the miserable four years of existence, resistance, and collaboration that followed. Our attention will then shift to the intellectuals who held court in the years following the war and the political and ideological conflicts they embodied. The concluding section of the course takes the story from the late 1950s to the present, considering Gaullism, the Sixties, the political alternance of left and right, and the cultural transformation of contemporary France.

Beyond the weekly readings, assignments will include four short analytical essays (5 pages), each devoted to a section of the course and due at the end of the section (Friday at 5 PM, except for the final paper, due Tuesday of exam week). I will provide suggested topics for each paper, though you may choose your own topic after consultation with me. In addition, each member of the seminar will write one short summary of a week's readings for presentation to the class. Each week, a group of three participants will work together to prepare the summary and to open the class discussion. Each group will give three presentations during the semester, and each time, a different member of the group will write the summary.

**Part I. From One War to Another**

**Week I. (Jan. 19) Introduction: France in the 20th Century**

Philippe Bernard, *The Decline of the Third Republic, 1914-1938*

Robert Gildea, *France Since 1945*

**Week II. (Jan. 26) The First World War**

(Bernard, chs. 1-8)

**Week III. (Feb. 2) Gender and Culture in the 1920s**

Mary Louise Roberts. *Civilization without Sexes: Reconstructing Gender in Postwar France*  
(Bernard, chs. 9-13)

**Week IV. (Feb. 9) Fascism and the Extreme Right.**

Robert Soucy, *French Fascism: The Second Wave*  
(Bernard, chs. 14-20)

**Week V (Feb. 16) The 1930s: A Société bloquée?**

Eugen Weber, *The Hollow Years*
(Bernard, chs. 21-31)

First Paper Due: Feb. 20

Part II. The Second World War

Week VI (Feb. 23) The Debacle
Marc Bloch. *Strange Defeat*
Wright, ch. 31

Week VII (March 2) The German Embrace
Robert Paxton. *Vichy France*
Wright, ch. 32

Week VIII (March 9) Occupied France
Philippe Burrin, *France Under the Germans*

Second Paper Due: March 12

Part III. Politics and the Intellectuals in Post-War France

Week IX (March 23) Beauvoir, Sartre and their Milieu
Simone de Beauvoir, *Les Mandarins*
Wright, ch. 36

Week X (March 30) Communism and the Intellectuals
Raymond Aron, *The Opium of the Intellectuals*

Week XI (April 6) Insiders on the Margins
Tony Judt, *The Burden of Responsibility*

Third Paper Due: April 9

Part IV. Contemporary France

Week XII (April 13) Gaullism
Jean Lacouture, *De Gaulle. The Ruler, 1945-70*, pp. 3-229
(Gildea, chs. 1-3)

Week XIII (April 20) The Sixties
Lacouture, *De Gaulle*, pp. 527-76.
(Gildea, chs. 4-6)

Week XIV (April 27) The New France
James F. Hollifield and George Ross, *Searching for the New France*
(Gildea, chs. 7-8)
Final Paper Due: May 4