

CAS PO 450 Paris Politique (Four credits)

Instructor: Olivier ROZENBERG

Books and materials:

Les institutions de la France, Paris, La Documentation française, 2^{ème} éd., 2007.

L'Express (weekly magazine);

recommended reading: *Le Monde*, *Libération*, *Le Figaro* (via their websites)

Introduction to political life in France beginning with a historical overview of the French political system. The course will include issues related to institutional changes in France, administrative organization and the civil service, issues of regionalism and France's role in the international community. Party politics and issues of the political public debate will also be considered.

The two-and-a-half-hour, twice weekly sessions include a group visit to the memorial of French historical persons, *le Panthéon*, and to an exhibition to the new De Gaulle memorial. We begin by a student-run analysis of the political news in the daily press which then informs the discussion of political institutions and activities.

Special emphasis will be placed on (1) the presidency of Nicolas Sarkozy, (2) the recent reform of the French Constitution, (3) the European elections of June 2009

Five approaches to political life will help us understand your host country.

Historical Approach

Introduction to French political life since 1945

Institutional Approach

Executive power

Legislative power

Judicial power

Geographic Approach

Local power & the French administration

Sociological Approach

Major political parties

Political behavior of French citizens

Politics and French society: the example of political violence

International Approach

France in the European Union & in the World

Grading

Class participation	10%
Oral presentation	20%
Written assignment	20%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%