

**HI/IR 538:  
FRANCE, EUROPE, AND THE WORLD:  
THE HISTORY OF FRENCH FOREIGN RELATIONS IN MODERN TIMES**

Semester II, 2013-2014

Course location: IRC 220, 152 Bay State Road

Course Times: Wednesday, 1:00-4:00 P.M.

Instructor: Professor William R. Keylor

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00-12:00 P.M.

Wednesdays, 11:00-12:00 P.M.

Thursdays, 11:00-12:00 P.M.

and by appointment

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**DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE**

This is an advanced research colloquium, primarily for undergraduate concentrators in the departments of history and international relations and graduate students in those two departments. It will explore the evolution of France's position in Europe and the world from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present.

Among the topics addressed will be the following: the consequences of French imperial expansion in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East; the First World War and its effects on France's international position; France's quest for security against a revival of German military power and French concerns about American economic domination and cultural influences during the interwar period; the French military defeat of 1940 and French collaboration with and resistance to the German occupation during the Second World War; the impact of decolonization and the Cold War on France from 1945 to 1962; France's response to the Marshall Plan, the country's postwar economic recovery, and its security relationship with the United States during the Fourth Republic (1946-1958); France's central role in the movement toward European economic and political integration (the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community, and the European Union); France's bid for an independent foreign policy under the Fifth Republic and the tensions that it caused with its allies in Washington and London; the military, economic, political, and cultural relations between France and the United States; the consequences of the end of the Cold War, the advent of globalization, and the war on terror for France during the last decade of the twentieth century and the early years of the twenty-first.

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE

Each student will be expected to complete all of the assigned readings for each class and to participate actively in class discussions of the readings. He or she will also be required to prepare an 18-20-page (double-spaced, 12-point type) research paper on a topic to be selected in consultation with the professor during his office hours. In the course of their research, students are encouraged to meet or communicate with the professor periodically to discuss the types of sources available, the organization of the paper, and the important themes that have emerged from the research. On **March 5** all students will submit at the beginning of class a one-page (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) project proposal for the paper that they are researching, together with a one-page bibliography of the works they have been consulting or intend to consult in their research. They will also submit the title of a book or film related to the course. On **April 2** all students will submit a 3-page analytical review of a book or film dealing with a topic relevant to the course that is selected in consultation with the professor (see partial list of relevant films at the end of this syllabus). Late submissions will be penalized 5 points for each late day. During the last three class meetings, students will present to the entire class a brief (15-20 minute) summary of major themes addressed in their research papers. The research papers are due at the beginning of the last class on **April 30**. As with the book and film reviews, late papers will be penalized 5 points for each late day.

## GRADING CRITERIA

The grade for the course will be calculated on the basis of the book or film review (25%), class participation (25%), and the final research paper (50%).

## AVAILABILITY OF THE PROFESSOR FOR CONSULTATION

Professor Keylor strongly encourages students to discuss with him their research paper topics in his office at the Department of International Relations, 154 Bay State Road, Room 301. His office hours are Tuesdays, 11:00-12:00 noon, Wednesdays 11:00-12:00 noon, and Thursdays, 11:00-12:00 noon. If the student's schedule conflicts with those hours, he or she should speak with the professor before or after class to arrange a mutually convenient alternative time to meet. Students should feel free to telephone Professor Keylor at 617-358-0197 or email him at wrkeylor@bu.edu.

## PLAGIARISM: WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO AVOID IT

### “What is Plagiarism and Why is it Important?”

In college courses, we are continually engaged with other people's ideas: we read them in texts, hear them in lecture, discuss them in class, and incorporate them into our own writing. As a result, it is very important that we give credit where it is due. Plagiarism is using others' ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information.

## How Can Students Avoid Plagiarism?

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use:

- another person's idea, opinion, or theory;
- any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;
- quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words; or
- paraphrase of another person's written or spoken words.”

The above quotation is taken from a website of the Writing Tutorial Services of Indiana University. For information about how to recognize unacceptable and acceptable paraphrases, strategies for avoiding plagiarism, and a discussion of what common knowledge consists of, please see [www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)

The above quotation is taken from a website of the Writing Tutorial Services of Indiana University. For information about Boston University's policy on plagiarism, see <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

## Plagiarism Will Not Be Tolerated at Boston University

Since plagiarism is a form of theft (in this case, theft of ideas or words), it is not tolerated in this university and is punished very severely by the Dean's Office of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

### LIST OF READINGS

The following books that will be used in the course are available at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Kenmore Square. They are also on reserve in the Reserve Book Room of Mugar Library:

- J.F.V. Keiger, France and the World Since 1870 (London, Arnold Hodder, 2001)
- Blatt, Joel, ed., The French Defeat of 1940: Reassessments (New York: Berghahn Books, 1998)
- Brenner, Michael and Guillaume Parmentier, Reconcilable Differences: U.S.-French Relations in the New Era (Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2002)
- Cogan, Charles, Charles de Gaulle: A Brief Biography with Documents (New York: Bedford Books, 1995)
- Cogan, Charles, Oldest Allies, Guarded Friends: The United States and France Since 1940 (Westport, CN, Praeger Press, 1994)
- Kuisel, Richard, Seducing the French: The Dilemma of Americanization (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993)

Addition reading assignments prepared by the instructor and posted on Blackboard in the “Content” section of the course's site.

## READING ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- January 15: Introduction and Overview
- January 22: The Bases of France's Relations with the Outside World  
Keiger, pp. 1-109
- January 29: The German Problem, the Empire, and the Great War  
Keiger, pp. 110-121, 161-170, 186-191, 200-204  
[Paths of Glory \(1957\)](#). (Krasker Film Library, Mugar; YouTube)
- February 5: "The Grandeur and Misery of Victory": France and the Peace Settlement  
Keiger, pp. 40-63, 121-124.  
William R. Keylor, "A Reevaluation of the Versailles Peace," in [Relevance: The Quarterly of the Great War Society](#), Vol. 5, Issue 3, autumn, 1996, pp. 1-11 (Blackboard).
- February 12: The "Twenty-Year Truce": 1919-1939  
Keiger, 124-136, 170-174, 191-193  
Keylor, "France's Futile Quest for American Military Protection, 1919-1922," in Marta Petricoli, ed., [A Missed Opportunity? 1922: The Reconstruction of Europe](#) (Berne, Peter Lang, 1995), pp. 61-80 (Blackboard).  
Keylor, "France and the Illusion of American Support, 1919-1940" in Blatt, pp. 204-244. (Blackboard)
- February 19: No class. Monday Schedule of Classes
- February 26: Defeat, Occupation, and Liberation, 1940-45  
Keiger, 136-141, 174-179  
J. E. Talbott, "Vichy and Resistance France," (Blackboard).
- March 5: Cold War Anxieties, the Agony of Colonial Withdrawal, and the Hope of European Integration under the Fourth Republic  
Keiger, pp. 141-148 (first paragraph), 193-195  
[War in Viet Nam: Documentary on the Battle of Dien Bien](#) (YouTube) (2013)  
[The Battle of Algiers](#) (1965) (YouTube)  
Selections from statements by Raymond Aron, Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, and John Foster Dulles in Sherill Brown Wells, [Pioneers of European Integration and Peace](#) (Blackboard)  
**Paper proposal, bibliography, and title of film or book chosen to review due at the beginning of class.**

March 8-17 Spring Break

March 19: The Grand Design of Charles de Gaulle (1958-1969)  
Cogan, Charles de Gaulle (complete)  
Keylor, "France's Assault on the Bipolar World" (Blackboard)

March 26: The Love-Hate Relationship between France and the United States:  
The Political and Security Dimension  
Keiger, pp. 178-182  
Cogan, Oldest Allies Guarded Friends (complete)

April 2: The Love-Hate Relationship between France and the United States:  
The Economic and Cultural Dimension  
Keiger, pp. 182-183.  
Kuisel (complete)  
**Book or Film review due at the beginning of class**

April 9: France, Europe, and the World in the Era of Globalization  
Parmentier (complete)

April 16: Student Presentations

April 23: Student Presentations

April 30: **Research paper due at beginning of class**  
Student Presentations  
Final Reflections on Topics Covered in the Course

List of possible films to be reviewed. Please note: This is only a partial list. If a student identifies another film that is relevant to the course material, he or she should clear it with Professor Keylor in advance.

**La Grande Illusion** (Jean Renoir) 1937; 94 minutes [Amazon instant video – rental \$2]  
A classic fictional treatment of French soldiers in a German prisoner of war camp during World War I. English subtitles.

**Paths of Glory**: Stanley Kubrick's fictional study of French soldiers accused of cowardice during World War I (1957) 88 minutes. English subtitles.  
Krasker Film Library in Mugar Library; Also on YouTube in 11 parts.

**The Sorrow and The Pity: Chronicle of a French City Under the Occupation**

(1971). 260 minutes : Available on Netflix and at Krasker Film Library, Mugar Library. Director Marcel Ophuls' account of France under the Nazi occupation during World War II. Ophuls combined interviews and archival film footage to explore the reality of the French occupation in one small industrial city, Clermont-Ferrand. He spoke with resistance fighters, collaborators, spies, farmers, government officials, writers, artists, and veterans - the result is a portrait of how ordinary people actually conducted themselves under extraordinary circumstances.

**Indochine (1992), 156 minutes.** In French with English subtitles. Available on Netflix and Krasker Film Library in Mugar Library.

This sumptuous French saga set in 1930, at the time when French colonial rule in Indochina is ending, follows the turbulent life of a French woman (Catherine Deneuve) who runs a rubber plantation. English/French/Spanish subtitles.

**War in Viet Nam: Documentary on the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, (2013);** in English; 58 minutes, 24 seconds. Available on YouTube. Documentary of the last battle fought by French military forces in the war between the Viet Minh and France, 1946-1954).

**The Battle of Algiers** (1965). 2 hours. In French with English subtitles. Available on YouTube. Recreation of French army's efforts to suppress an urban insurrection by the National Liberation Front (FLN) in Algiers in the early stage of the Algerian War.