DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

This colloquium will explore the evolution of France’s relations with the other countries of Europe, the United States, and the world from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. Each class meeting will begin with a “mini-lecture” by the professor on the historical context of the events addressed in the weekly reading assignments. The rest of the class will be devoted to an in-depth discussion of the week’s assigned readings and the important themes that they raise.

Among the topics addressed will include (but is not limited to) 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 role in the construction of the peace settlement at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919; 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 role of Charles de Gaulle’s Free French movement during the war and its relations with Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union; 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 for France of the end of the Cold War; the advent of globalization and its effects on France in the 1990s; and France’s policies toward the political instability in the Middle East, the war on terror and the challenge of immigration in the 21st century.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE

Each student will be expected to complete all of the assigned readings for each class and to participate actively in discussions of the themes addressed in the readings. In addition, each student will be expected to contribute a brief commentary on the weekly readings prior to the next class meeting. This commentary should be posted on the course’s Blackboard site, in the “Discussions” section on the “Student Comments on Weekly Readings” thread. On April 6 all students will submit a 5-6 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 suggested films at the end of this syllabus). Late submissions will be penalized 5 points for each late day.

GRADING CRITERIA

The grade for the course will be calculated on the basis of the mid-term examination (25%), the final examination (25%), the book or film review (25%), and class participation—including presentation and commentaries on Blackboard-- (25%).

AVAILABILITY OF THE PROFESSOR FOR CONSULTATION

Professor Keylor strongly encourages students to discuss with him prospective topics for their book or film review, either during breaks in the class or 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. 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.

Cogan, Charles, Oldest Allies, Guarded Friends: The United States and France Since 1940 (Westport, CN, Praeger Press, 1994)

Addition reading assignments have been posted on Blackboard in the “Content” section of the course’s site.

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

January 20: Introduction and Overview

January 27: The German Problem, the Empire, and the Great War
               Adamthwaite, pp. 2-39

February 3: “The Grandeur and Misery of Victory”: France and the Peace Settlement of 1919
               Adamthwaite, pp. 40-63

February 10: The “The Era of Illusions: the 1920s
               Adamthwaite, pp. 69-131
February 17: The Illusions Dispelled: The 1930s  
Adamthwaite, pp. 131-139, 144-161, 183-196, 202-220  
Keylor, “France and the Illusion of American Support, 1919-1940” in  
Joel Blatt, ed., The French Defeat of 1940: Reassessments (Oxford:  
Berghahn Books, 1998), pp. 216-244. (Blackboard)

February 24: Defeat, Occupation, and Liberation, 1940-45  
Adamthwaite, pp. 220-231  
“The Sorrow and the Pity” (1971) (Krasker Film Library; Netflix)  

March 2: Mid-Term Examination

March 9 No class. Spring Break

March 16: Cold War Anxieties and the Hopes for European Integration under the Fourth Republic  
Selections from statements by Raymond Aron, Jean Monnet, and Robert Schuman in Sherill Brown Wells, Pioneers of European Integration and Peace (Blackboard)  
Title of film or book chosen to review due at the beginning of class.

“War in Vietnam: Documentary on the Battle of Dien Bien Phu” (YouTube)  
or  
“The Battle of Algiers” (YouTube)

Keylor, “France’s Assault on the Bipolar World” (Blackboard)

April 6: The Love-Hate Relationship between France and the United States:  
The Political and Security Dimension  
Cogan, Oldest Allies Guarded Friends (complete)  
Book or Film Review due at the beginning of class

April 13: The Love-Hate Relationship between France and the United States:  
The Economic and Cultural Dimension  
Kuisel (complete)

April 20: No class. Monday Schedule of Classes
April 27: France Faces Globalization, Mid-East Instability, Terrorism & Immigration
Parmentier (complete)

May 4: Final Examination. 3:00-5:00 p.m. Classroom to be determined

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 at Krasker Film Library in 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 Net Flix and Krasker Film Library in Mugar Library.
This sumptuous French saga set in 1930, at the time when French colonial rule in Indochina was challenged by Vietnamese nationalists, follows the turbulent life of a French woman (Catherine Deneuve) who runs a rubber plantation.
English/French/Spanish subtitles.


**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.