

FRANCE: STATE, INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETY

Instructor: Nordine HOCINE

Course overview

This course is an introduction to French history, civilization, politics, society, and culture focusing on the multifaceted development of France from the Ancien Régime to the present.

Students will examine the evolution of French political institutions, analyzing key events such as the French Revolution, the establishment of the Republics, and the impact of republicanism, colonialism and global conflicts on France's political, social and cultural landscapes.

The course also delves into the contributions of influential historical figures, including monarchs, revolutionaries, intellectuals, political leaders and cultural icons to understand their roles in shaping modern France.

In addition, the course will explore French society by analyzing social structures, institutions, class dynamics, economic and demographic shifts over time. Contemporary issues will also be discussed, providing students with a nuanced understanding of contemporary French society and culture.

Assignments

1- Attendance & class participation (10%) - Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to come to class prepared and to actively participate.

2. French culture (15%) – In pairs, students will give a ten-minute presentation on an aspect of French culture in which they are interested.

2- Group project (25%) – In groups of three or four, students will complete a project on a topic which they wish to explore in greater depth. Each group must also submit a digital version of their final presentation.

4- Final Exam (50%) – Organized outside the course at the end of the semester, it consists of two sections:

- (1) An MCQ evaluation of the students' theoretical and factual knowledge
- (2) Short questions.