

FEIS COURSE

France: State, Institutions and Society

Lecturer & Facilitator

Nordine HOCINE

Course overview

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

Students will examine the evolution of France and its political institutions and socio-cultural habits and representations, analyzing key events such as the French Revolution, the impact of republicanism, colonialism, world conflicts and globalization on France's political, social and cultural landscapes. The course also delves into the contributions of influential historical figures, including monarchs, revolutionaries, thinkers, 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, and demographic shifts over time. Special attention will be paid to the role of the concept of the Droite and the Gauche, religion and secularism (laïcité), the challenges and opportunities of multiculturalism. Contemporary issues will also be discussed, providing students with a nuanced understanding of contemporary French society and culture.

Assignments

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION – 15% - Attendance is mandatory, and students are expected to come to class prepared and to actively engage and contribute.

MID-TERM EXAM – 20% - There will be a multiple-choice mid-term exam to assess students' assimilation of the material covered in class.

ESSAY – 35% - Students will write a 5–8-page illustrated essay on an aspect of French politics, history, society, culture and arts in which they are interested.

THE FINAL EXAM – 30% - Organized outside the course at the end of the semester, it consists of two discussion questions.