

History 776 (Fall 2011)

I am offering a graduate colloquium on modern French history in Fall 2011. I welcome not only students of history, but any students interested in modern France and its imperial experience. Students will submit posts on the readings each week and will write one ten-twelve page paper on a classic of modern French history which the class is not reading —this can be a text aligned with the student's interests, whether in history or another discipline. The student will present this work to the class and make her or his paper available to the class.

We'll begin by with several texts which pose fundamental issues about historical method and identity, including Rebecca Spang's 'The Invention of the Restaurant' [she will come to UNC-CH to speak in October]; Gay Gullickson's 'Unruly Women of Paris' on interpreting the Paris Commune, Maud Mandel's 'In the Aftermath of Genocide' on the memory in France of the Armenian and Jewish genocides, Joan Scott's Parité on the issues in the parity debate, and Patrick Weil's 'How to be French' and the history of citizenship. We'll then turn our attention to France's experience in the Middle East and North Africa and its legacies today. We'll read David Prochaska's 'Making Algeria French' on the creation of pied noir society and culture in Algeria, Elizabeth Thompson's 'Colonial Citizens' on the nature of republican rights and the politics of gender in interwar French Syria and Lebanon, Neil MacMaster's 'Burning the Veil' on the 'emancipation' of Algerian women during the war of independence, MacMaster's and Jim Hall's 'Paris 1961' on the October 1961 massacre and its memory, Todd Shepard's 'The Invention of Decolonization' on the populations that came to France after independence, and Herman Lebovics' 'Bringing the Empire Back Home' on the colonial experience as reenacted in Fifth Republic France.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at dreidl@email.unc.edu