Contemporary France has been shaped by three events: (1) the defeat in 1940 and the occupation of France by Germany until 1944, in collaboration with the Vichy regime and opposed by diverse resistance movements; (2) the war in Algeria against independence fighters and to protect the territorial integrity of France; and (3) the political, cultural and social movements born of the “thirty glorious” years of postwar economic expansion which marked all facets of French life in the late 1960s and 1970s. In the class, we will examine these events, the ways they are re-membered and given meaning in France, and how they made the France we know today.
The class is devoted to analysis of a diversity of texts. I will present the historical context for these texts and the issues they address before discussion. I and visiting scholars will also give a number of lectures on issues which will develop discussion of the issues at hand.

There are several components to this class:

--Questions and Comments (20 points). For each class marked with a *, you will submit a comment or question which you feel gets to the heart of the work in question, something which a superficial reading would not reveal. In the best of cases, these will become an element of our discussion. They are due by 10 a.m. at the latest the day of the discussion. Mundane responses will get 0 points; good responses, 1 point; excellent responses, 2 points). It is possible to get more than 20 pts. total.

--Papers (60 points). Students will write three 7-10 page papers. Each asks the students to analyze a concept both as it was understood and practiced in a particular historical situation period and as a concept of historical analysis in light of what we learn from this analysis. The first paper analyzes resistance; the second liberation; and the third identity.

--Discussion (20 points). The heart of this class is shared discussion. The key here is quality, not quantity, interventions that refer to others’ contributions (whether in support or disagreement) and which build on earlier developments within the course.

Texts. Available on reserve and in the bookstore:

Henri Alleg, The Question
Daniel Anselme, On Leave
Lucie Aubrac, Outwitting the Gestapo
Phillip Hallie, Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed
Dominique Manotti, Lorraine Connection
Frédéric Martel, The Pink and Black: Homosexuals in France since 1968
Albert Memmi, The Colonizer and the Colonized
Henry Rousso, The Vichy Syndrome
Jean-Paul Sartre, Anti-Semite and Jew
Joan Scott, The Politics of the Veil

Schedule

Thurs., Jan. 8   Introduction to the Class. France during the War


Th. Jan. 15    Contours of French History. The Fifth Republic
Part I

*1/20  Discussion of Philip Hallie, *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*, parts 1-3

*1/22  Discussion of Philip Hallie, *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*, parts 4-5


Th. Jan. 29  In-class screening and discussion of Alain Resnais, *Night and Fog*

Germaine Tillion

*Tues. 2/3  Discussion of Henry Rousso, *The Vichy Syndrome*, Introduction and chs. 1-3

*Thurs., 2/5  Discussion of Rousso, *The Vichy Syndrome*, chs. 4-5 and Conclusion

*Tues. Feb. 10  Discussion of Lucie Aubrac, *Outwitting the Gestapo*


Tues., Feb. 17  Abbé Pierre, Albert Memmi and the End of the Fourth Republic

**First Paper Due**

Part II

*Thurs. Feb. 19  Discussion of Albert Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*

*Tues. Feb. 24  Discussion of Henri Alleg, *The Question*

*Thurs., Feb. 26  Discussion of “Battle of Algiers” [available on line at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XeMWdueGTZ4]

Tues., Mar. 3  Gisèle Halimi, defender of terrorists and the woman’s right to choose
*Thurs., Mar. 5  
Discussion of Daniel Anselme, *On Leave*

Tues., Marc. 17  
After the War in France: Presentations by and Discussions with Anndal Narayanan (UNC-CH) and Laura Sims (UNC-CH) on French veterans and Algerian refugees

*Thurs., March 19  
Discussion of Joan Scott, *The Politics of the Veil*

Tues., Mar. 24  
After the War in Algeria: From the Pieds rouges to Doctors Without Borders

3/26  
**Second Paper Due**

Part III

*3/31  

*4/2  
Discussion of Frédéric Martel, *The Pink and Black: Homosexuals in France since 1968*. pts. 1-2

4/7  
Social Movements in the 1970s

*4/9  
Discussion of Frédéric Martel, *The Pink and Black: Homosexuals in France since 1968*. Pts. 3 and 4
4/14 The class will divide in two and play two board games, *Chomageopoly* and *Mai 68*; each group will tell the other what they learned

*4/16 Discussion of Dominique Manotti, *Lorraine Connection*

4/21 Presentation by Prof. James Winders (Appalachian State) on African Music in Postcolonial Paris

4/23 What Have We Learned and How Did We Learn It

**Third Paper Due**