COURSE DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

History and Politics of France since 1945

Terms: Autumn and Spring
Duration: 21 hours (11 lectures, 10 seminars)
Credits Value: 3 ECTS

Course description
The aim of this 1st year module is to provide an overview of the history and politics of contemporary France and. In terms of content, the module will introduce students to the key landmarks in French contemporary history, the most significant developments in French political life and culture and the key moments in the transformation of France’s relations with other countries in Europe. The focus will be on developing an understanding of the main events, processes and ideas, which have shaped and influenced contemporary France and provide the backdrop to current problems and issues.

In addition to providing students with the necessary background knowledge to pursue further study of the politics, society and culture of contemporary France, the module will also aim to equip students with appropriate skills to write their project during the year abroad. The language medium will be French and students will be trained in the vocabulary and idiom appropriate to the discussion of historical and socio-political topics. They will also learn how to equip themselves with relevant up-to-date primary and secondary source materials, as well as how to analyse such material critically.

The course will require one 1-hour lecture/ seminar per week, plus 1-hour private study. Assessment will consist of 50% coursework, which will comprise an in-class writing task in the first term and an oral presentation in the second term, and 50% end of course examination.

Students will be provided with a variety of up-to-date written and audio-visual documentation in French. In addition, they will be provided with a list of recommended reading material.

Assessment
Based on

- In-class writing task 25%
- Oral presentation 25%
- Written examination 50%

Syllabus

Term 1 (1945-1973)

From la Libération to the end of les Trente Glorieuses

1. De Gaulle, the Liberation and the aftermath of World War II
3. The Algerian war and the creation of the 5th Republic
4. The events of May 1968: revolution or near-revolution?
Term 2 (1974-present time)

From *les Vingt Piteuses* to 21st century France

5. Life in post-de Gaulle France: *c’est la crise*!
7. Postcolonial Immigration and the Rise of the National Front
8. Political, Economic and Social Challenges in the 21st Century: *La France en souffrance*

Bibliography


Websites

[www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)
[www.liberation.fr](http://www.liberation.fr)
[http://www.rue89.com/](http://www.rue89.com/)