FREN 502 - Representations of the Algerian War of Independence

Fifty years ago, Algeria celebrated its independence from France, after one of the most protracted and iconic decolonization struggles of the twentieth century. Alternatively called a war, a revolution, or simply “the events,” the conflict opposing France and its colony, but also pro- and anticolonial Algerians and French(wo)men, has been depicted and debated in memoirs, essays, novels, plays, and films on both sides of the Mediterranean from the 1950s to the present day. This seminar will examine the ways in which the Algerian war of independence has shaped French and Algerian politics, culture, and civil society, as well as global emancipatory and imperialist discourses. Topics will include historiography and testimony, terrorism and torture, and women and war. Readings and discussion in French and English.