In this course, which continues Early Modern French Cultures [French 351], the focus of our study is France from the French Revolution to the present. So as to understand today’s France and its national identity, we shall take a multifaceted approach to our learning about historical figures and key political events; intellectual and cultural movements; attitude-shaping philosophical trends; and, significant artistic and literary landmarks. A multimedia “cornucopia” of videos, films, slides, and Internet links will be used to illustrate the rich tapestry which defines today’s French society. In addition, along with short texts and excerpts, we will read and discuss one important literary work that embodies one of the periods under study.

The course provides not only the necessary array of facts and details about France since the French Revolution, but also it examines the “how and why” of specific events and movements that have richly contributed to France’s cultural heritage and the evolution of its national identity.

**THE CLASS IS CONDUCTED IN FRENCH.**

**GOALS FOR THIS COURSE:**

To introduce students to notable French artistic, literary, philosophical, and historical works from the French Revolution to the present so that they will:

-- Acquire an understanding of significant French historical events (“sciences humaines”), as well as the rich and creative expression within the French culture of that period.

-- Recognize, know, and understand cultural icons or stereotypes of the French.

-- Think analytically, critically, and effectively as they compare and evaluate the depth and complexity of cultural differences between French culture and their own.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. During class discussions and as a result of their own oral presentation students will demonstrate that they are able to understand and discuss cogently, in French, culturally authentic texts.

2. Quizzes will test the students’ ability to identify accurately:

   -- Important periods of French cultural development; an
   -- Distinctive features of historical events and great works.

3. In a research paper, with a multimedia component, students will demonstrate their ability to

   -- Gather evidence from critical sources (such as books, journals, and electronic resources);
   -- Present and support their ideas in French, and in a critical scholarly manner; and,
   -- Present their ideas in multiple formats, and thus achieve a strong competitive edge as they embark on in their future careers.

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