

UC PAR-LON Global Cities Urban Realities Program – Spring 2017
PCC178. **Nation and Identity in Modern France: A Series of Great Ideas**

Prof. Justin E. H. Smith

contact: jehsmith@gmail.com

Office Hours
by appointment

Lecture

T 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

TH 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

See complete schedule for special sessions

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will seek to understand the concepts of nation and identity in modern France via its cultural, political, and intellectual history. We will focus on key ideas developed by some of the most influential modern French thinkers. Each week we will consider a handful of central ideas, contained in short slogans or quotations, and developed more fully in short accompanying texts. During class we will discuss the ideas developed in these texts, attempting to relate them to the broader questions that are guiding us, and also to relate them to our own experience in contemporary Paris. **4.5 credits**. Suggested subject areas for this course: *Philosophy/Political Science/History*

COURSE MATERIALS

Course Reader [CR]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and site visits is mandatory. It is essential that you attend all classes and participate actively. As per the UC Attendance Policy, excessive absences and tardies will result in a lowered final grade. Please refer to the UC Global Cities Urban Realities Program Academic Handbook for the policy on absences and tardies.

Participation and reading assignments are critical. For the purposes of this class, participation means reading the materials in advance, coming to class on time, staying for the entire class period, and actively taking part in discussions and other in-class exercises and activities. A large part of this portion of your grade is simply **paying attention**; in order to pay attention, you must be present! Lateness and absences will have a strong negative effect on your participation grade.

Assignments: Deadlines for assignments are to be respected. There will be NO extensions on assignments, nor will there be any additional or make up assignments.

Grade Breakdown:

Participation in class discussion:	15%
Oral Presentation:	15%
Weekly Quizzes:	20%
Paper (6-8 pages):	20%
Final Exam (In-class or Take-home):	30%

A Note on Academic Dishonesty: Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a failing grade in the class and possible dismissal from the program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as copying of materials from sources

without duly citing them, claiming other's ideas as one's own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask your instructor.

A Note on Electronic Devices: As a courtesy to your instructor and fellow students, please do not use cell phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, or other electronic devices during class, even to check the time. Make sure phones are turned off. Use of these devices will lower your participation grade. No recording (audio or visual) of class sessions will be permitted.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

Week 1

Tuesday, March 28th (4-6 pm): Welcome Reception - Mosquée de Paris

Thursday, March 30th: The Discovery of the Self

- Michel de Montaigne (1533-1592): 'What do I know?' [*Que sais-je?*]. Reading from *The Essays*.

Week 2

Tuesday, April 4th: The Limits of Reason

- René Descartes (1596-1650): 'I think, therefore I am' [*Je pense donc je suis*]. Reading from the *Meditations*.
- Blaise Pascal (1623-1662): 'The heart has its reasons that the reason does not know' [*Le coeur a ses raisons que la raison ne connaît point*]. Reading from the *Pensées*.

Thursday, April 6th: Absolutism and Freedom

- Louis XIV (1638-1715): 'The state is me' [*L'état, c'est moi*]
- Voltaire (1694-1778): 'The more men are enlightened the more they are free' [*Plus les hommes sont éclairés, plus ils sont libres*]. Reading from Voltaire, *The Age of Louis XIV*.

Friday, April 7th (10am-4pm): Class visit to the Musée de l'Homme

Week 3

Tuesday, April 11th: Revolution and Its Aftermath

- Maximilien de Robespierre (1758-1794): 'Louis must die so that the French nation may live!' [*Louis doit mourir parce qu'il faut que la patrie vive!*]. Reading: 'On the Death Penalty'.
- Napoléon Bonaparte (1769-1821): 'The people must be saved in spite of themselves' [*Il faut sauver les peuples malgré eux*]. Reading: The Ibis and the Crocodile: Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign and Evolutionary Theory in France, 1801-1835

Thursday, April 13th: The Mirror of Nature

- Georges Cuvier (1769-1832): "Every organized being forms a unique and closed system" [*Tout être organisé forme un système unique et clos*]. Reading from *Fossil Bones and Geological Catastrophes*.

Class visit to the Galerie d'Anatomie Comparée

Week 4

Tuesday, April 18th: The Mirror of Fiction

- Marcel Proust (1871-1922), 'The highest truth of life is in art' [*La vérité suprême de la vie est dans l'art*]. Reading from *Remembrance of Things Past*.

Thursday, April 20th: The Self, Reconsidered

- Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980), 'Existence precedes essence' [*L'existence précède l'essence*]. Reading from *Being and Nothingness*.
- Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986), 'One is not born a woman, but becomes one' [*La femme ne naît pas, elle devient*]. Reading from *The Second Sex*.

Week 5

Tuesday, April 25th: Things Fall Apart

- Michel Foucault (1926-1984), 'Man is an invention' [*L'homme est une invention*]. Reading from *The Order of Things*.
- Jacques Derrida (1930-2004), 'There is nothing outside the text'. [*Il n'y a pas de hors-texte*]. Reading from *Of Grammatology*.

Paper Due

Wednesday, April 26th: Review

- **Review for Final Exam**

Thursday, April 27th: Final Exam