

Prof. Eric Bulakites (He/him/il/lui)
T,Th 2:30-3:45 Candler Library 124
Office hours: Mardi et jeudi 16h00 à 17h00, Callaway N401
ou sur rendez-vous: ebulaki@emory.edu



Course Description

What is French culture? And Francophone culture? How is it constructed? How does it change? What is it composed of? What determines an identity, a race, or an ethnicity? Is it birth, physical appearance, culture, or personal conception? Can one change their race or ethnicity during a lifetime? These are some of the questions that this course will attempt to answer. The reading of Annie Ernaux's "The Years" will serve as our guiding thread and will be supplemented with other texts and films. By the end of the course, each student will have developed their own understanding of France's racial and ethnic reality and will have created their personal history of France. At the end of the semester, students will be able to discuss and analyze topics such as politics, family, work, religion, immigration, and the environment with a high level of sophistication.

This is not a film course but a course on French culture that draws upon the films included in the curriculum.

Course Objectives:

- Develop a critical awareness of how antagonisms and inequalities develop historically through personal, institutional, and cultural forces.
- Discern how racial and ethnic power dynamics shape and can be reflected in intellectual inquiry across all disciplines.
- Recognize the ways in which race and ethnicity intersect with other group identifications or attributes, such as language, religion, class, ability, nationality, sexuality, age, and gender.
- Acquire the tools to understand French values and institutions, to question the social, political, and historical forces that have shaped and transformed France, to move beyond stereotypes about French and Francophone culture, and to analyze cultural practices.
- The course format will also provide you with the tools to analyze cultural documents and to improve your French language skills.

Texte et films

Annie Ernaux, *Les Années* (2008) **Il est indispensable que les étudiants achètent la même édition du texte.**

The other documents will be posted to Canvas.

Grading:

Participation (20%).

- Attendance at all classes (3 absences allowed).
- Thorough reading of texts at home and attentive viewing of films.
- Active and regular participation in discussions. Only informed participation, based on the provided materials, will contribute to your grade.
- Weekly assignments completed:

Before each class, students groups (number tba) will need to prepare questions or comments about the assigned reading/viewing material and post them in a collaboration space that I will open each week (the number of contributions will depend on the number of students in the class).

Decade Summary (15%)

After each decade, you will need to create a written summary of these ten years, highlighting significant moments, explaining how this decade differs from the preceding one, and citing the relevant texts (to be submitted on Canvas as a Word document). This summary can be done in groups of two.

Mini presentations (15%).

Students will be required to give a mini-presentation (5-7 minutes) on a portion of the weekly material. The analysis should focus on cultural aspects (including history, society, economy, politics, arts). The topic and content must be approved by the professor in advance (via email or office hours). The student should have notes but should not read a presentation displayed on their screen. After the presentation, fellow students will ask questions (written or verbal). These presentations serve as practice for the final presentation.

Mini Essay (10%).

Since there won't be any more decade summaries at the end of the semester, you will write a short essay of 2 to 3 pages on an ongoing ecological/green initiative in the Francophone world after the week on the environment. In the essay, you need to explain the ecological issue that this initiative aims to address and provide a detailed description of the initiative. Please refer to Canvas for detailed instructions.

Final Research Portfolio (40%)

a. The student will create a research portfolio to be presented in class at the end of the semester. In this dossier, you will develop an aspect of contemporary French or Francophone culture that particularly interests you, based on a problematic issue or a research question. You will present your work in class at the end of the semester. The final text should be a minimum of 8 pages.

b. This portfolio will include a) research notes, b) a report on your interview with the librarian, and c) an annotated bibliography. This portfolio is individual and must be completed independently. The use of languages other than French should be cautious and justified.

c. To produce this portfolio, the student will schedule an appointment with the professor to discuss their topic (the topic should be thought out before the meeting).

d. The final grade will include: presentation, bibliography, structure, quality of the French for the presentation, visual quality of the presentation (documents, etc.), and, of course, the content of the dossier (see details in Canvas).

The writing of these "dossiers" must be meticulous: grammar and written expression will be evaluated. Use a dictionary, either Collins (<http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english-french>) or Le Robert (<http://pr.bvdep.com>). The same applies to oral expression.

Unless otherwise specified, all written work must be submitted via email and must adhere to the following rules:

- Times New Roman, Cambria, Arial font
- Font size 12 pt
- 1" margins
- Double spacing
- Citations in MLA/Chicago format
- Paginated (page numbers indicated)

Grading Scale:

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	F = 0-62
A- = 90-92	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66	
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

Date	Class Topics	Read or Prepare Before Class	Hand in Before Class
Week 1 : Introduction			
Jeu. 24/8	Course Presentation		

Week 22 : Algerian War			
Mar. 29/8		- Article : « L'éco-gouvernance en Algérie française » - « L'Algérie était-elle rentable » (PDF sur canvas) - « Romanticism and the Saharan Sublime » (Pdf sur Canvas)	C : Discussion board sur les trois textes
Jeu. 31/8		Film : <i>Hors la loi</i>	
Week 3 : The 60s			
Mar. 5/9	May 1968	Film : João Moreira Salles, <i>Dans l'intense maintenant</i> (2016)	
Jeu. 7/9			
Week 4 : The 70s			
Mar. 12/9			
Jeu. 14/9			
Week 5 : The 80s			
Mar. 19/9	- Mitterand and the left	- Film : François Mitterand, un destin français	
Jeu. 21/9	- Criminality : homosexuality and death penalty		
Week 6 : 80s			
Mardi 26/9	- La marche des beurs		
Jeudi 28/9	- Affaire Malik Oussekiné	- Film : Nos Frangins	
Week 7 : The 90s			
Mardi 3/10			
Jeu 5/10	- AIDS crisis	- Excerpts from <i>Écologies déviantes</i>	
Week 8 : 90s			
Jeu. 12/10			
Week 9 : The 2000s			
Mar. 17/10			
Jeu. 19/10			
Week 10 : The 2010s			
Mar. 24/10			
Jeu. 26/10			
Week 11 : Today, The Environment			
Mar. 31/10	Sustainable development: France	- <i>Développements durables</i> - Introduction and Chapter 1	
Jeu. 2/11	Challenges in Haïti and Madagascar	- <i>Développements durables</i> - Chapters 5 and 6	
Week 12 : Today, French Presence in Africa			
Mar. 7/11	Niger	- Article : « How Dependent is France on Niger's Uranium ? »	

Jeu. 9/11	Mali	- Article : « Seeing Green in Mali's Woods : Colonial Legacy, Forest Use, and Local Control » - Article : « Understanding French Foreign and Security Policy Towards Africa : Pragmatism or Altruism »	
Week 14 : Today, other debates			
Mar. 14/11	Police violence		
Jeu. 16/11	Retirement		
Week 14 :			
Mar. 21/11 Sur Zoom	Olympic Games		
Week 15 :			
Mar. 28/11		Presentations	
Jeu. 30/11 Sur Zoom		Presentations	
Semaine 16			
Mar. 5/12		Presentations	

Attendance: Given the emphasis that must be placed on participation and interaction in foreign language courses, the French Department has instituted the following attendance policy: Students are required to attend **all** classes. You are allowed to have three unexcused absences. Each additional absence beyond that will lower your final grade by 5 points.

If you are having attendance issues due to extenuating circumstances (illness, etc.), you will need documentation either from the OUE or Student Health excusing you from class. Completing the self-service absence form itself does not constitute an excused absence. You need official documentation from the university.

Being tardy by more than 5 minutes three times counts as an absence.

Technology :

- This course will use a Canvas site for communication and posting of course materials. It is your responsibility to check this site regularly to stay up-to-date on announcements and assignments. Canvas resources for students can be found here: <http://canvas-support.emory.edu/canvas-resources/for-students.html>
- While we may not use our computers every class session, please bring a laptop and headphones to every class- we will use them frequently. Cell phones are not permitted unless requested by the instructor and should be stored somewhere out of view. While laptops are generally permitted, there will be times in which the instructor requests that those be stored out of view as well.
- **IMPORTANT:** Frequent and unauthorized use of your phone and/or laptop will negatively impact your participation grade.

Accessibility Services Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we will develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I encourage you to visit the Department of Accessibility Services (<http://accessibility.emory.edu/>) for additional resources. If you need official accommodations, you have a right to have these met. There are also a range of resources on campus, including the Writing Center, Tutoring Center, and Academic Advising Center.

Reasonable accommodations are available for eligible students with a documentable disability and/or medical condition covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). This act ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all University programs and services. An Individualized Service Plan (IAP) will be developed for each student as appropriate. Students needing accommodations may contact the Department of Accessibility Services.

Late work:

You will lose one third of a letter grade for each day an assignment is late. Extensions are only granted for extenuating circumstances and must be requested more than 24 hours before an assignment is due.

Honor Code: All work submitted must be your own. In compliance with the [Emory College Honor code](#), all outside help on assignments, including the use of computer translation and AI is forbidden. Computer translation is immediately distinguishable from human composition by its distinctively coded, often incorrect phrasing and will not be tolerated for the purposes of our class. The only online dictionary you are allowed to use is Word Reference. Any words that you look up must be put in bold to indicate that you looked it up and avoid plagiarism.

Diversity: All students should feel welcome in this course. I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect. I will work hard to create a classroom climate where everyone has the opportunity to have their voice heard. All students in this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please visit Emory's [Diversity page](#) for further details.