New York University in Paris

Dr. Simon Jackson  
smj228@nyu.edu  
Class Meeting Times and Place: 9-10:30 am, Monday and Wednesday. Salle 11.  
Office hours: By appointment

FREN-UA986500220113 / TPCS: FRANCE UNDER HITLER: THE POLITICS OF OCCUPATION (ENGL)

Course summary and objectives

This course explores the crucial decade lasting from the mid 1930s to the Liberation of France from German Occupation in 1944, while also going well beyond those chronological parameters. Opening with a discussion of the crises facing the French polity prior to World War Two, we will move on to explore the events, culture, politics and economics of the defeat of 1940, the Vichy regime and its relationship to Nazi Europe and the French colonies, the dynamics of resistance and collaboration, the deportation of Jews and other groups, the highly contested process of Liberation and retribution, and the wars of memory over the meaning of the wartime past. Using secondary and primary texts, film and visual sources, as well as visits to Paris sites, students will learn about the relationship of the past and the present in producing the history of this period and will become competent critics and knowledgeable exponents of this essential stretch of French history and historiography.

Course Requirements

Regular, punctual attendance and careful listening and note taking at lectures.

Class Participation: students are expected to read, think about and take notes on the assigned reading material, to respond to questions, volunteer ideas and to participate meaningfully in class discussions in a spirit of constructive criticism. 15%

Film Review: a short paper (1500 words) assessing the utility to historians of a film about the era from a list provided. (20%)

Presentation: Students will work in teams to collaboratively prepare a brief presentation to the class on a topic relating a site in Paris to one set of readings, according to a schedule handed out in the opening weeks. 25%

Final Paper: Students will work in teams to collaboratively research and write a paper connecting a site in contemporary Paris to a question raised in the course (3,000 words, double-spaced, font 12). Deadline and details to be announced in class: 40%.

Class Policies

Absence Policy

Students are expected to attend all sessions and more than three unexcused, missed sessions will result in a failing grade. Students who need to absent themselves because of sickness or
unforeseen emergencies are responsible for making up missed work and documenting their absence.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is met with a failing grade. NYU policy is available at [http://cas.nyu.edu/page/ug.academicintegrity](http://cas.nyu.edu/page/ug.academicintegrity) and you should be familiar with it.

**Late Assignments**

Deadlines for assignments are to be respected. Late assignments will be downgraded at the rate of a whole letter grade per day (A to B, not A to A-). There are no additional or make up assignments.

**E-Mail**

You should feel free to contact me by e-mail with any questions, and I will aim to reply within 24 hours. Your messages should respect the conventions of professional correspondence i.e. begin with ‘Hi/ Dear Professor Jackson’ and conclude with ‘Best/Thanks’ followed by your name. Do not e-mail at the last minute, or about information that’s clearly available in the syllabus, as you may not get a reply.

**Course Materials:**

Available from, among others, NYU Paris Library, Shakespeare and Co.
☞ Blackboard/Library Materials. Check Blackboard and your NYU e-mail for announcements regularly. Familiarize yourself with the reserve shelf for our class in the library, where many of our texts will be available for photocopy. Likewise, be familiar with Blackboard resources.

**Films Used in Class:**


These will also be on reserve at the library and can generally be watched there or checked out over the weekend in exchange for an ID: ask at the library.

**Course Outline**

**Week 1**

**Introduction to the course : World War II in Paris and in Perspective**

Reading:

1. (9/19) *NO CLASS SESSION*
Week 2

France in 1930s : from French “fascism” to the Popular Front
Reading :
① (9/26) Julian Jackson, France The Dark Years 1940-1944, pp.43-64.
② (9/28) Julian Jackson, France The Dark Years 1940-1944, pp.23-42

FRIDAY 9/30: Catch-up Class: meet at 9 am in front of memorial monument, ‘Square de la Liberation’, opposite 116 Ave Jean Jaures, Drancy. Travel by RER B from Gare du Nord to Le Bourget and then take bus line 143 to Drancy. See www.ratp.fr. Reading: Julian Jackson, France The Dark Years 1940-1944, pp.65-111 and http://www.camp-de-drancy.asso.fr/

Week 3

1940 : “L’Année Terrible” : The German Invasion and the Exodus
Reading :

Week 4

Vichy France : The National Revolution
Reading :
① (10/10) Julian Jackson, France The Dark Years 1940-1944, pp.139-165.

Week 5

Life in Occupied France
Reading :
② (10/19) Jean Bruller (Vercors), Put out the Light (Le Silence de la Mer), trans. Cyril Connolly.

Week 6

Collaboration
Reading:
① (10/24) Julian Jackson, France The Dark Years 1940-1944, pp.166-189.
☞ Film showing : Lacombe Lucien, Louis Malle, 1974.
*FILM REVIEW DUE*

Week 7
Vichy and The Jews
Reading:

Week 8: (*Presentations begin*)

Resistance
Reading:
 ➕ Film showing (excerpts): *Army of Shadows*, (Jean-Pierre Melville, 1969)

Week 9

Liberation: state-making and the ‘resistance of September’
Reading:


Week 10

War of Memory : Remembering The German Occupation
Reading:
② (11/23) Sorrow and the Pity introductory materials (Blackboard) ➕ Film showing : *The Sorrow and the Pity* (Marcel Ophuls, 1969)

Week 11

The Sorrow and the Pity
Reading:
② (11/30) No reading.
Film showing: *The Sorrow and the Pity* (Marcel Ophuls, 1969)

*FINAL PAPER DUE*

**Week 12**

**The Vichy Syndrome and the Vél d’Hiv**

Reading:

① (12/5) Sorrow and the Pity Forum and Discussion

② (12/7) Class visit to the Vél d’Hiv Monument (Quai de Grenelle) Henry Rousso, *The Vichy Syndrome*, excerpts.

**Week 13**

**Conclusion: Postwar France**

Reading:

① (12/12)☞ Guest Speaker: Michel Anfrol TBC