

NYU Paris

FREN-UA 9902

German Occupation in French Literature and Cinema

Instructor Information

- Elizabeth Molkou
- Office hours: Tuesday 10:30am
- em152@nyu.edu

Course Information

- FREN-UA 9902
- German Occupation in French Literature and Cinema
- This course aims to explore how literature and cinema from 1945 to the present have covered the topic of what is commonly referred to in France as the "Années noires" ("the Dark years"), or the period of German occupation in France.
- Tuesday and Thursday 11am – 12:30pm in room 501

Course Overview

- Figured against the backdrop of the events of World War II and the Occupation, the course examines the complexity of questions of identity, memory and narrative in relation to this complex moment in French history. Through analysis of various filmic and written texts, the course allows us to see both the multiple ideological currents of the time, and how these have changed and been sustained to the current day. Includes an overnight trip to visit the Vercors region, a major site of the French resistance.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Students are expected to be active and responsive members of the class. Non-excused absences can affect the student's participation grade, starting at the first absence. It is the responsibility of the student to ask for notes and assignment, etc, from their classmates, in order to prepare for the following class meeting.

Assignments

Each short paper (3 to 4 pages each) will consist of an essay and propose a personal reading and possibly thesis on the precise topic you have chosen (among a list suggested by the professor). It should be clearly organized, with an introduction, a development consisting of distinct parts, and a conclusion.

It will begin with a central question, what the French call « la problématique ». It can be as simple as « how is occupation represented in *Les Jeux Interdits* » to something a little more elaborate like « Can *Nuit et brouillard* succeed to write history and how ? »

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class participation	15%
4 papers (3 to 4 pages each)	60%
In-class presentation	25%

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points	Description
A	16-20	Outstanding
A-	15	Excellent
B+	14	Very Good
B	13	Good
B-	12	Satisfactory
C+	11	Above Average

Letter Grade	Points	Description
C	10	Average
C-	9	Below Average
D+	8	Unsatisfactory
D	7	Low Pass
D-	6	Low Pass
F	5	Fail

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topic
Feb. 5, 7	<p>Introduction : the Legacy of First World War Lexicon of the German Occupation Mandatory reading : Joanna Bourke, <i>The second World War, a people's history</i>, pages 25-54. Theater Outing : Paris Bamako February 7th at 7:30pm</p>
Feb. 12, 14	<p>The Defeat of 1940 Chronology of the German Occupation Field trip n°1 : Memorial route across the Luxembourg Gardens to the "Student Resistance Memorial".</p>

Week/Date	Topic
Feb. 19, 21	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>L'appel du 18 juin 1940 and the creation of the Vichy Regime</i></p> <p>Out of class screening : <i>Les Jeux interdits</i>, René Clément (1952) Mandatory reading : Marc Bloch, <i>A strange Defeat</i>, pages 1-23.</p>
Feb. 26, 28	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Resistance (1)</i></p> <p>Mandatory reading : Vercors, <i>Le silence de la mer</i>, 1942. In class screening : excerpts from <i>Army of Shadows</i>, Jean-Pierre Melville (1969) Assignment 1 due February 28th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">** Field trip to the Vercors region - March 1st and 2nd</p>
March 5, 7	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Resistance (2)</i></p> <p>Chanson : <i>Le chant des partisans</i>, 1943 excerpts from <i>Army of Shadows</i>, Jean-Pierre Melville (1969) Exposé 1 : Zach (l'homosexualité pendant l'Occupation) Mandatory reading : A.F. Timm, J. A. Sanborn, <i>Brothers and sisters at war</i>, Gender, Sex and the Modern Europe, pages 131-164.</p>
March 12, 14	<p style="text-align: center;">Exposé 2 : Julia</p> <p>“Quelle est la signification et quelles sont les implications des femmes tondues après la Seconde Guerre mondiale?” Field trip n°2 on Tuesday : le Panthéon Exposé 3 : Will (la vie artistique sous l'occupation)</p>
March 19, 21	<p>Conclusion <i>Army of Shadows</i>, Jean-Pierre Melville (1969) <i>The petainist utopia of Ravages</i> Mandatory reading : excerpts from <i>Ravages</i>, Barjavel (1943) Exposé 4 : Carolina Exposé 5 : Ashley Assignment 2 due March 21st</p>

Week/Date	Topic
March 26, 28	Spring Break
April 2, 4	Exposé 6 : Ashley Exposé 7 : Marielle “Quel a été le rôle et l'impact de la propagande nazie pendant l'Occupation?”
April 9, 11	Exposé 9 : Mina Exposé 10 : Jaxx “En quoi la littérature française a-t-elle été influencée par l'occupation au cours des années 1940-1944?”
April 16, 18	Exposé 11 : Raquel « Comment est-ce que l'Occupation a affecté l'utilisation de la langue (notamment le français et l'allemand) pendant et après la guerre? » Assignment 3 due April 18th
April 23, 25	
April 30, 2	
May 7, 9	
May 14, 16	Assignment 4 due May 16th
May 21, 23	No final exam, no class

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

Available at Librairie Eyrolles (and at the NYU center library)

- Modiano, Patrick, *Dora Bruder*, Gallimard, 1999.

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

- Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
- Unexcused absences affect students' grades: unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% deduction from the students' final course grade.
- Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

Illness: For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor's note, at the discretion of the Associate Director of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor's note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor's note.

Religious Observance: Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Associate Director, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

Please note: if you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly to notify them.

Late Assignment

Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the

classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

Plagiarism: *presenting others' work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one's own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:*

- *a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks*
- *an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another's work*
- *the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one's own*
- *submitting evaluations of group members' work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member*
- *altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.*

For further information, students are encouraged to check www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Instructor Bio

Elizabeth Molkou received her Ph.D. in French from McGill University in Canada. She currently teaches French language, civilization, and literature at the *Institut d'Etudes Politiques* ("Sciences Po") and *New York University in France*, as well as French language for the *Stanford Program in Paris*. She also leads creative writing workshops. Her research interests include autobiographical theory, autofiction in contemporary French literature, and the representation of Paris in contemporary fiction. In 2010, she published *Identités juives et autofiction : de la Shoah à la post-modernité* at Editions *Universitaires Européennes*.