

FR121-30 The Story of Modern France

26/27

Department

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Pierre Botcherby

Credit value

30

Module duration

23 weeks

Assessment

70% coursework, 30% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Why is modern France so obsessed by the past?

What do we mean by 'Frenchness'?

What are the major landmarks in the creation of modern France?

What is 'culture générale'?

These are just some of the questions we will explore on this introductory module. Examining primary texts from major periods and events in French history, the module will equip you with an understanding of the nature of modern France. We will be guided on our journey through French history using a range of sources and approaches, from the graffiti of the events of May 1968 to the prints of the French Revolution in 1789, and from tales of the ancient Gauls to films and texts which reflect France's ongoing obsession with its (often controversial) recent past. The module will provide you with the foundation to study further aspects of French and francophone culture in the later stages of your degree.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

1. To allow students to become acquainted with landmark events that shaped the development of modern France.

2. To enable students to consider different forms of textual and visual production inspired by those events (political, literary, historical, theoretical)
3. To enable students to form a good understanding of French 'culture générale'.
4. To enable students to build a picture of what constitutes 'Frenchness' over time.
5. To introduce students to a range of critical and analytical approaches to the material studied.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

TERM 1: PERSONAL AND NATIONAL NARRATIVES / POLITICS AND THE INDIVIDUAL

1. Introduction: France: myth, memory and Marianne!
2. Revolutionary Prints and Pamphlets: The Story of Bastille
3. Olympe de Gouges' Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne and the French Revolution
4. Theory 1: Other voices: feminism in early texts; the story of Bastille after 1789
5. Foucault, Surveiller et Punir (1975, extracts): investigating liberty: the individual and the State
6. Two Frances ? The Dreyfus affair and its impact (1894 – 1906)
7. Reading week
8. De Gaulle, national narratives and their contestation (1940s; 1968)
9. Audiard, Un Héros très discret (1996). Film
10. Theory 2: Deconstructing Texts : story, history and identity in Un Héros très discret

TERM 2 : FRANCE AND THE WORLD: SELF AND OTHER

1. Chanson de Roland 1 : Borders and boundaries: self and other viewed from pre-modern France
2. Chanson de Roland 2 : binary oppositions and boundaries : gender ; religion
3. Montaigne, 'Des Cannibales' : The Colonial Project: ways of interrogating self and other
4. Theory 3: Modernity and its discontents. Gender and post-colonial theory as responses to Enlightenment views of self and society
5. Algeria : Soustelle, Lettre ouverte aux victimes de la colonisation (1973)
6. Reading Week
7. Condé, Un Cœur à rire et à pleurer (1999): post-colonial conflicts
8. Condé 2: Conflicts in language, culture and identity
9. Integration and Assimilation: the French Riots of 2005 and 2007
10. Abd Al Malik, Gibraltar (2006). Album.

EASTER VACATION

1. Revision workshop 1
2. Revision workshop 2

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Students will be enabled to demonstrate: 1. an ability and willingness to engage with other cultures, appreciating their distinctive features;
- 2. an ability to use the target language(s) for purposes of reading, understanding and analysing primary textual materials
- 3. an ability to make use of critical theoretical materials to support their textual and cultural analysis, both in French and in English;
- 4. an ability to present the results in their own manner but with due attention to accuracy, comprehensiveness and clarity.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

International

All modules delivered in SMLC are necessarily international. Students engage with themes and ideas from a culture other than that of the UK and employ their linguistic skills in the analysis of primary materials from a non-Anglophone context. Students will also be encouraged to draw on the experiences of visiting exchange students in the classroom and will frequently engage with theoretical and critical frameworks from across the world.

Subject specific skills

This module will develop students' linguistic skills through engaging with primary materials in the target language. It will build students' capacity to engage with aspects of French culture through analysis of this primary material and through seminar discussion aimed at deeper critical thinking. In particular, students' awareness of the story of modern France will be enhanced through lectures and seminars which engage in scholarship in the field.

Transferable skills

All SMLC culture modules demand critical and analytical engagement with artefacts from target-language cultures. In the course of independent study, class work and assessment students will develop the following skills: written and oral communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving and analysis, time management and organisation, independent research in both English and their target language(s), intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between languages and cultures, ICT literacy in both English and the target language(s), personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	21 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	21 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Private study	258 hours (86%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Needs to be regular and consistent: at least 4 hours per week

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D5

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Essay 1 x 1500 word essay	30%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Assessed seminar contributions	10%		No
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Students will be assessed on their contributions to seminars along the following lines:

- evidence of engagement with sources on the seminar worksheet

Weighting**Study time****Eligible for self-certification**

- critical engagement with these in the seminars (in the form of a question, targeted observation on material discussed, etc.)
- awareness of others - not talking over others; allowing all voices to be heard
- instilling from the off a culture of 'no idea / question is a stupid question' - seminars are for discussion.

Students will be awarded a 5% flat rate mark per term if they show the effort to contribute in a majority of seminars in that term.

Allowances will be made if students are unable to engage fully in all seminars for good reason (they would have to email the seminar tutor beforehand to explain why they couldn't engage, eg for personal wellbeing reasons).

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Creative task and presentation 30%

Yes (extension)

You are required to give a 5-minute oral presentation on an aspect of mythmaking and nationhood in France and/or the francophone world, supported with a document you have put together in one of the following formats:

Poster

leaflet

Video / screen cast / film

Power Point presentation or similar – maximum 3 slides

Close reading/analysis of a selected textual extract

You should refer to no more than three texts studied on the module and may focus on a single text if you prefer. You will need to submit a copy of your supporting document outlining any primary and secondary sources you have used in the preparation of your piece.

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Centrally-timetabled examination (On-campus)

30%

No

You will be required to answer one comparative question, with reference to 2 or 3 primary texts on the module.

Weighting

Study time

**Eligible for self-
certification**

- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in the course of the module in a number of ways. Feedback should be understood to be both formal and informal and is not restricted to feedback on formal written work. Oral feedback will be provided by the module tutor in the course of seminar discussion. This may include feedback on points raised in small group work or in the course of individual presentations or larger group discussion.

Written feedback will be provided on formal assessment using the standard SMLC Assessed Work feedback form appropriate to the assessment. Feedback is intended to enable continuous improvement throughout the module and written feedback is generally the final stage of this feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development, which can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focussed on key transferrable skills, enabling students to apply this feedback to their future professional lives. Feedback will be fair and reasonable and will be linked to the SMLC marking scheme appropriate to the module.

[Past exam papers for FR121](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 1 of UFRA-QR3C Undergraduate English and French (3 year)
- Year 1 of UFRA-R101 Undergraduate French Studies
- Year 2 of UFRA-R10P Undergraduate French Studies
- Year 1 of UFRA-R102 Undergraduate French Studies (3 year)
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1Q2 Undergraduate French Studies with Linguistics
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1L5 Undergraduate French and Economics (3 year)
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1L4 Undergraduate French and Economics (4-year)
- Year 1 of ULNA-RR14 Undergraduate French and German
- Year 1 of UFRA-R1VA Undergraduate French and History
- Year 1 of UFRA-R1VB Undergraduate French and History (3 year)

- Year 1 of ULNA-RR15 Undergraduate French and Italian
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1Q3 Undergraduate French and Linguistics
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1WB Undergraduate French and Theatre Studies
- Year 1 of UFRA-R1WA Undergraduate French with Film Studies
- Year 1 of UFRA-R1WC Undergraduate French with Film Studies (3 year)
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1A2 Undergraduate French with German
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1A3 Undergraduate French with Italian
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1A8 Undergraduate French with Japanese
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1A7 Undergraduate French with Russian
- Year 1 of ULNA-R1A4 Undergraduate French with Spanish
- Year 1 of ULNA-R4RF Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and French
- Year 1 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of UFRA-R1VA Undergraduate French and History

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 1 of UFRA-R900 Undergraduate Modern Languages

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 1 of UFRA-R10P Undergraduate French Studies
- Year 1 of UFRA-R903 Undergraduate Modern Languages (3 year)

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 1 of UFRA-QR3C Undergraduate English and French (3 year)
- Year 1 of UFRA-R1VB Undergraduate French and History (3 year)
- Year 1 of ULNA-R9Q2 Undergraduate Modern Languages with Linguistics

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 1 of UFRA-R1VA Undergraduate French and History
- Year 1 of ULNA-R9Q1 Undergraduate Modern Languages and Linguistics
- Year 1 of ULNA-R9Q4 Undergraduate Modern Languages and Linguistics (3 Year)
- Year 1 of ULNA-R9Q9 Undergraduate Modern Languages with Translation and Transcultural Studies

This module is Core option list E for:

- Year 1 of ULNA-R9LA Undergraduate Modern Languages and Economics (3-year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 1 of UFRA-R900 Undergraduate Modern Languages

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 1 of UFRA-QR3C Undergraduate English and French (3 year)

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 1 of UFRA-R903 Undergraduate Modern Languages (3 year)