

French

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	France from Versailles to Vichy: The Rise and Fall of the Third Republic, 1919-1945
Code	FRU44151
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	FRU22001
Module Coordinator	Dr Edward Arnold (EJARNOLD@tcd.ie)

Module Content

This course will investigate the ideological landscape of interwar France, focussing on the polarisation of politics between the extreme right and left wings in the wake of the Russian Revolution and the Great War, that would lead to the collapse of the Third Republic in 1940, and the foundation of the collaborationist Vichy State.

Against the backdrop of the emergence and consolidation of Communism and socialism, the first part of the course will study the emergence of fascist doctrines, intellectuals and movements, and will assess the threat these movements posed to the survival of the Third Republic. Many historians argue (and others refute firmly) the claim that a specifically French form of pre-fascism originated in the intellectual climate of the Belle Epoque and its irrationalist "fin-de-siècle" mood, and found expression in the economically- and politically-troubled interwar years. A clear distinction can be made between literary, intellectual forms of fascism (Drieu la Rochelle, Brasillach, Céline, Rebatet) and fascist or conservative-reactionary movements (le Faisceau, les Croix de Feu, le PSF, les Jeunesses Patriotes, le Francisme, la Cagoule, le PPF).

The period of the Occupation and Vichy France –the second section of the course– is considered by some scholars to be the culminating point of the fascist temptation in France. Others see it as a return to the conservative, reactionary values of pre-revolutionary France and not necessarily as a pure expression of French fascism.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the importance of the French Revolution in the development of modern right- and left-wing ideologies, on the dynamics of memorialisation

of the Occupation (the gaullist myth/Résistancialisme), on the fragmented nature of collective memory/amnesia, and on the official policy of concealment of this period in successive post-war governments.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Analyse critically and independently, in English and French, a variety of primary and secondary texts and documents from the relevant period and a variety of sources,
2. Demonstrate an understanding and an ability to work within the specificity of disciplines such as history, politics, literature, ideas and culture,
3. Demonstrate a broad and interrelated knowledge of the intellectual, political, social and historical background of France since the French Revolution, and notably from 1918-45
4. Demonstrate originality in identifying thematic research questions in the fields of history, politics, ideas and culture
5. Select and use appropriate methodologies and relevant resources
6. Demonstrate independence and originality in identifying research questions and critical concepts
7. Mobilise the knowledge, strategies and skills needed for further intellectual development and independent, lifelong learning.
8. Prepare oral presentations in class with appropriate pedagogical tools.

Assessment

1. 1 x essay (maximum 2000 words) to be handed in by 12 noon on the Monday of the final week in the semester. In French or in English. 60% of the mark;
2. 1 x 20 minute presentation in French or in English during the semester (accompanied by a Powerpoint/Prezi presentation) on a theme of the course (Weighting 40%).

Either (1) or (2) should be done in French.