

Professor André Lambelet
206 Chapman Hall
Tel: 346-2854
Office hours: M, 3-5, Fr 10-11, & by appt.
Email: lambelet@uoregon.edu

HC415H: Black and White and French All Over

On August 26, 1789, the French National Assembly voted to adopt the “Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.” Its first article began, “Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.” Yet if the French can be thought the authors of the modern notion of human rights, French practice was more ambiguous than this optimistic document affirmed. In this course, we will look at the way in which the lofty principles of universal human rights collided with France’s colonial ambitions. Topics we will address will include: debates over slavery during the French Revolution; the Haitian Revolution; the challenge to liberal principles posed by French colonial ambitions; the place of race in French culture and in citizenship debates in France; and decolonization.

Course requirements: This course emphasizes reading and discussion. Reading is to be completed before the beginning of the class for which it is assigned. Written assignments (more on those later) are to be completed on time: they are due at the beginning of the class for which they are assigned. Late work will not be accepted (barring genuine and serious extenuating circumstances).

Please be advised that reading assignments are *subject to change*. Changes will be announced in class and posted on the course’s Blackboard site.

Written assignments: You will be required to complete eight (very) short assignments (responses to the reading) during the term. Each week, you may choose which readings you will respond to – the catch is that you must turn your response in *at the beginning of class on the day that reading is due*. I’ll give further details about this requirement in class...

The major written assignment for this course is a ten-page paper, due in the last week of the course.

Grades: You will be evaluated on class participation and preparation (50%), completion of short written assignments (15%), and on your final essay (35%).

Academic integrity: It should go without saying that the work you present is your own—and produced exclusively for this course. You must properly acknowledge and document your use of sources (ideas, quotations, and paraphrases).

Please consult this web site for the University’s policy on academic integrity:

<http://www.uoregon.edu/~conduct/sai.htm>.

If you have any questions, *ask!* Ignorance of the standards of academic conduct is not a defense.

Books: The books for this course are available at Mother Kali’s. A complete list is available on Blackboard. Many of the books will be on reserve at the Knight Library.

Introduction

March 31

Universal Rights?

April 2

Hunt, *Revolution*, 1-33, "Introduction: The Revolutionary Origins of Human Rights"

Hunt, *Revolution*, 71-79, "The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789"

Recommended:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, available at
<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm>

April 4

Hunt, *Revolution*, 101-118, "Debates over Citizenship and Rights during the Revolution / Free Blacks and Slaves"

Background:

Aldrich, *Greater France*, 10-23, "Prologue - The First Overseas Empire"

Recommended:

Peabody, *'There Are No Slaves in France': The Political Culture of Race and Slavery in the Ancien Régime*.

Brubaker, *Citizenship*.

Haiti

April 7

James, *Black Jacobins*, 3-61

April 9

James, *Black Jacobins*, 62-117

April 11: NO CLASS

April 14

James, *Black Jacobins*.

April 16

James, *Black Jacobins*.

Slavery / Algeria

April 18

Tocqueville, *Empire*, 199-226, "The emancipation of slaves (1843)"

Recommended:

Jennings, *French Anti-Slavery: The Movement for the Abolition of Slavery in France, 1802-1848*.

Algeria

April 21

Tocqueville, *Empire*, 5-13, "First letter on Algeria (23 June 1837)"

Tocqueville, *Empire*, 14-26, "Second letter on Algeria (22 August 1837)"

Background:

Ageron, *Algeria*, 1-8, "1. Introduction: Algeria before 1830 and the Capture of Algiers"

April 23

Tocqueville, *Empire*, 36-58, "Notes on the voyage to Algeria in 1841"

Background:

Ageron, *Algeria*, 9-27, "2. The Conquest"

Recommended:

Porch, *The Conquest of the Sahara*.

April 25

Tocqueville, *Empire*, 59-116, "Essay on Algeria (1841)"

April 28

Tocqueville, *Empire*, 129-173, "First report on Algeria (1847)"

Tocqueville, *Empire*, 174-198, "Second report on Algeria (1847)"

Background:

Ageron, *Algeria*, 28-46, "3. Algeria under the Second Republic and the Second Empire, 1848-1870"

‘Mission civilisatrice’

April 30

Conklin, *Mission*, 1-10, "Introduction"

Conklin, *Mission*, 11-37, "Chapter 1: The Setting: The Idea of the Civilizing Mission in 1895 and the Creation of the Government General"

Background:

Aldrich, *Greater France*, 163-198, "5. The Uses of Empire"

Recommended:

Aldrich, *Greater France*, 24-67, "1. The Conquest of Empire: Africa and the Indian Ocean" (Skim)

May 2

Conklin, *Mission*, 73-106, "Chapter 3: Forging the Republican 'Sujet': Schools, Courts, and the Attack on Slavery (1902-1908)"

Background:

Aldrich, *Greater France*, 199-233, "6. The French and the 'Natives'"

May 5

Conklin, *Mission*, 142-173, "Chapter 5: Revolt and Reaction: World War I and its Consequences"

May 7

Stovall, *Paris Noir*, 1-24, "1. Freedom Overseas: African American fight the Great War"

May 9

Conklin, *Mission*, 174-211, "Chapter 6: "Democracy" Reinvented - Civilization through association (1914-1930)"

May 12

Conklin, *Mission*, 212-245, "Chapter 7: Civilization through coercion - Human 'mise en valeur' in the 1920s"

Colonial Culture

In addition to the readings for this block, we will also watch Edmond T. Gréville's *Princesse Tam Tam*, starring Josephine Baker. Screening time and location to be announced.

May 14

Archer-Straw, *Negrophilia*, 23-49, "Chapter 1: Packaging the primitive"

Recommended:

Aldrich, *Greater France*, 234-265, "7. Colonial Culture in France"

May 16

Archer-Straw, *Negrophilia*, 50-79, "Chapter 2: Fetishism and fashion"

Archer-Straw, *Negrophilia*, 81-105, "Chapter 3: Negrophiles, photographs and fantasies"

May 19

Stovall, *Paris Noir*, 25-81, "2. Bringing the Jazz Age to Paris"

May 21

Archer-Straw, *Negrophilia*, 107-133, "L'art jazz and the black bottom"

Archer-Straw, *Negrophilia*, 135-157, "The darker side of surrealism"

May 23

Archer-Straw, *Negrophilia*, 159-177, "Other' lovers in Paris and New York"

Archer-Straw, *Negrophilia*, 179-185, "Conclusion, Epilogue"

Stovall, *Paris Noir*, 130-181, "4. Life on the Left Bank"

May 26 -- Memorial Day

No class

Aftermath

Pontecorvo et al., *The Battle of Algiers* (film; will be shown this week...)

May 28

Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, 7-34, "Preface by Jean-Paul Sartre"

Background:

Ageron, *Algeria*, 47-64, "4. The Triumph of the Settlers, 1870-1930"

Ageron, *Algeria*, 65-81, "5. The Progress of Algerian Muslims and the 'Native Policy', 1870-1930"

Recommended:

Ageron, *Algeria*, 82-92, "6. The Economic and Social Development of Algeria (1930-1954)"

Ageron, *Algeria*, 93-107, "7. The Political Development of Algeria, 1930-1954"

May 30

Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Background:

Ageron, *Algeria*, 108-117, "8. The Algerian Insurrection and the French Reaction under the Fourth Republic"

Aldrich, *Greater France*, 266-306, "8. Colonial Nationalism and Decolonisation"

June 2

Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Foster et al., *La Haine = Hate*, (Film.)

Background:

Ageron, *Algeria*, 118-129, "9. From '13 May' to the Evian Agreement"

June 4

Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Aldrich, *Greater France*, 307-325, "Epilogue: After the Empire"

June 6

Finish Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*.