

French R1B (2017)

English Composition in Connection with the Reading of French Literature

French Perspectives on the United States: Encounters in Literature, Philosophy and Film

Michelle Koerner | Dwinelle 4218 | koerner@berkeley.edu
Office Hours: Tu/Th 2:15 – 3:15, and by appointment

Tu/Th 12:30-2:00PM, Sec 001 (214 Haviland)
Tu/Th 3:30-5:00PM, Sec 003 (233 Dwinelle)

Course Materials

In addition to these required books, supplementary readings will be available through bcourses. Note: you are required to printout readings and bring them to class.

Simone de Beauvoir, *America Day By Day*
Jean Baudrillard, *America*
Blank Journal For Reading Notes

Course Description & Theme

This reading and composition course focuses on the relationship between French and American culture through a survey of nineteenth and twentieth-century French writers and filmmakers who have made this relationship a central theme of their work. Over the course of the semester, we will analyze texts written by French writers travelling in the United States, short critical essays and works of literary criticism, as well as documentaries and feature films. How have ideas about “America” and “American Literature” circulated, both positively and negatively, among French thinkers, social critics and artists? How has the notion of the “American Dream” as well as that of the “American Nightmare” been interpreted from afar? In exploring the relationship between France and the United States, we will pay special attention to issues of class, race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality in order to better inform our understanding of the way American culture has appeared within French thought.

Writing assignments will focus on the close analysis of texts and images, strengthening critical skills for thinking comparatively and historically, and producing compelling research questions for further inquiry and investigation.

Grades

Essays	60%
<i>Diagnostic Essay</i>	<i>Not Graded</i>
<i>Essay 1 (Comparative Analysis)</i>	15%
<i>Essay 2 (Critical Analysis)</i>	20%
<i>Essay 3 (Research-Based Final)</i>	25%
Journal, Homework & In-Class Writing	25%
Overall Improvement	5%
Participation	10%
Total.....	100%

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Grading Guidelines

• **A:** An “A” paper contains:

- a clear thesis that is compelling, yet controversial
- a logically sound argumentative structure that addresses counterarguments (“they say, i say”)
- well-chosen textual evidence to support all claims, fully integrated into the paper’s structure
- coherent transitions between paragraphs and ideas
- relevant historical background
- few (if any) errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, or formatting
- precise language and sentence structure

• **B:** A “B” paper has:

- a clear thesis, which may still be somewhat too broad, complicated or imprecise
- a logical structure, with some gaps in reasoning or disorganized paragraphs
- satisfactory textual evidence to support most claims; some analyses unconvincing or hard to follow
- some errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and formatting
- some repetitiveness or incongruous language

• **C:** A “C” paper has:

- **a thesis that seems still only half-formed; may be more descriptive than argumentative**
- a general sense of organization, but is difficult to follow, veers off topic
- **adequate evidence for some claims; unpersuasive explanation of evidence**
- errors in grammar, punctuation, usage or formatting that may obstruct the reader’s comprehension
- word choice or stylistic decisions that may significantly slow the reader down

- **NP:** If the basic requirements for a “C” are not met, the student will receive an “NP.” A grade of “NP” requires that you set up an appointment with the instructor, and rewrite for a higher grade. Failure to rewrite, or to turn in the assignment, will result in a D or an F on the assignment.

Plagiarism will also result in an F for the assignment or, in egregious cases, for the course.

Course Policies

• **Office Hours**

Since paper writing can be a very individual process, I encourage you to come to talk me one-on-one in my office hours. If you can't make posted office hours, other meeting times may be arranged. Please contact me at least **24 hours in advance** to arrange meeting outside of regular office hours.

• **Attendance & Participation**

Because R1B courses often have wait lists, attendance is ***MANDATORY*** for the first two weeks of classes. Roll will be taken for both regular and waitlisted students every day during this period. Anyone who does not attend all classes during the first two weeks may be dropped from the class. At the end of the first and second week of classes, students will be added

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manually from the waitlist. If you are attempting to add this class and did not attend the first day, you will be expected to attend all class meetings thereafter and, if space permits, you will be allowed to enroll. No students will be added after end of the second week of the term without permission from the Department. Students can only be added from the wait-list.

Each student is entitled to miss **two classes** for personal days. Use these wisely. If you are marked absent more than two days over the course of the semester, your participation grade will be marked down. (As you have two allowed absences, you do not need to contact me if you will miss a class. I will simply count it as one of your absences.)

Please be aware that class participation is about more than just showing up to class. Participating starts with having **finished your reading and other assignments** *before* class, and **having the assigned texts** with you. **No laptops** or other electronics will be allowed in this class. (If you have disabilities that require the use of a laptop or other electronic devices, please talk to me. See the "Disability Accommodations" section below.)

- **Papers**

Unless otherwise noted, **all written assignments in this class are due in class** and a copy should be uploaded to bcourses (under "Assignments"). Late papers will receive a penalty of ½ points per day.

- **Plagiarism**

The University has a strict policy on plagiarism: "Plagiarism is defined as use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source, for example:

- Wholesale copying of passages from works of others into your homework, essay, term paper, or dissertation without acknowledgment.
- Use of the views, opinions, or insights of another without acknowledgment.
- Paraphrasing of another person's characteristic or original phraseology, metaphor or other literary device without acknowledgment."

[From the Berkeley Campus Code of Student Conduct from the Office of Student Conduct

<<http://students.berkeley.edu/osl/sja.asp?id=1143&rcol=1201> >]

- **Contacting Me/Email Etiquette**

The best way to communicate with me is always in person, either immediately before or after class or during office hours. If you need to reach me outside of office hours or class times, please email me at koerner@berkeley.edu. I will do my best to answer your email within 24 hours, but cannot guarantee that I will respond more quickly than that.

- **Disability Accommodations**

If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, if you have emergency medical information you wish to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me as soon as possible by seeing me after class or making an appointment to visit office hours. If you are not currently listed with DSP (Disabled Students' Program) but believe that you could benefit from their support, you may apply online at <http://dsp.berkeley.edu>.

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Reading and Assignment Schedule

Please note this schedule is somewhat tentative and subject to change as we find our pace as a group. Should there be a need to change a reading, cancel a class, or extend an assignment due date, these changes will be announced on bcourses.

Please check our course site regularly for updates, supplemental links/readings, and any unforeseen changes to our meeting schedule.

Week I (January 17 & January 19)

Tuesday

Introductions

In-Class Writing (“Americanness” & “Frenchness”)

Thursday

Syllabus Review, Grading Guidelines and Overview of the Theme

Francois Cusset, “The Academic Enclave” from *French Theory*

Reading for Writing

Week II (January 24 & January 26)

Tuesday

Francois Cusset, “The Academic Enclave” from *French Theory*

Bring Notes, Quotes, and Questions!

Thursday

Writing Assignment

Diagnostic Essay (2-3 pages)

Due In-Class

Week III (January 31 & February 2)

Tuesday

“Declaration of Independence” (1776)

“Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen” (1789)

Thursday

In-Class Writing

Rhetorical Analysis Exercise

(Speaker, Audience, Situation)

Week IV (February 7 & February 9)

Tuesday

Alexis de Tocqueville, “Introduction” to *Democracy in America*

Due: Essay #1: Comparative Analysis (2-3 Pages)

Thursday

Alexis de Tocqueville, “Introduction” to *Democracy in America* cont.

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Active Reading Exercise
(Taking Notes, Selecting Passages, Identifying Arguments)

Week V (February 14 & February 16)

Tuesday

Alexis de Tocqueville, "The Present and Probable Future Condition of the Three Races that Inhabit the Territory of the United States"

Thursday

Alexis de Tocqueville, "The Present and Probable Future Condition of the Three Races that Inhabit the Territory of the United States" cont.

Writing An Introductory Paragraph
Descriptive vs. Argumentative Theses

Week VI (February 21 & February 23)

Tuesday

Guided Peer-Review Workshop
Due: First Draft of Essay #2: Critical Analysis (3-4 pages)

Final Draft Due February 28th

Thursday

Documentary: Sartre and Beauvoir

Week VII (February 28 & March 2)

Tuesday

Simone de Beauvoir, *America Day By Day* [Preface & January]

Thursday

Simone de Beauvoir, *America Day By Day* [February]
In-Class Writing

Week VIII (March 7 & March 9)

Tuesday

Simone de Beauvoir, *America Day By Day* [March]

Thursday

Simone de Beauvoir, *America Day By Day* [April]
Formulating Research Questions and Annotated Bibliography

Week IX (March 14 & March 16)

Tuesday

Film: Agnes Varda *The Black Panthers*

Thursday

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Jean Genet, *The Declared Enemy* [excerpts]

Week XI (March 21 & March 23)

Tuesday

Michel Foucault, "Attica"

Thursday

Prison Information Group

Research Questions Due

Week XII Spring Recess (March 28 & March 30)

Tuesday

NO CLASS

Thursday

NO CLASS

Week XIII (April 4 & April 6)

Tuesday

Jean Baudrillard, *America*

Thursday

Jean Baudrillard, *America*

Annotated Bibliography Due

Week XIII (April 11 & April 13)

Tuesday

Jean Baudrillard, *America*

Thursday

Jean Baudrillard, *America*

Week XIV (April 18 & April 20)

Tuesday

Gilles Deleuze "Whitman"

Thursday

Research Check-In

Week XV (April 25 & April 27)

Tuesday

Course Reflections

Thursday

LAST DAY OF CLASS

Week XVI (May 2 – May 4)

READING/REVIEW/RECITATION WEEK

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ESSAY #3 Research-based Final Paper (6-7 Pages)

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE SUNDAY MAY 12TH

Submit to bcourses "Assignments"