Spring, 2013  
T TH 11-12.30 CLA 2.606

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Various matters:

1) Please note. You are all admitted to the honors program. You're welcome to come to the honors class whenever you want, and the syllabus is posted on Blackboard. If you want to write an honors thesis, you need to pick a topic, find an advisor, and write a short (5 page) prospectus by the first week of class in the fall.

2) Our excellent history website: www.notevenpast.org. You'll find interviews here, all kinds of essays on Normandy related matters and by the Normandy faculty. NEP will also be running regular essay contests you can enter. If you ‘like’ the page, you’ll get all those announcements.

**HISTORY 354 : FRANCE IN MODERN TIMES**

This course surveys the major themes of French history from 1914 to 1962, with an emphasis on World Wars 1 and 2 and the long legacy of those conflicts.

Paris has been called “the capital of the nineteenth century,” and for most of the nineteenth century, France stood as a beacon of democracy, liberalism (in the sense of individual rights and the rule of law), and European culture. In the first half of the twentieth century, France provided one of the most dramatic cases of the sudden and devastating collapse of all that — and of political polarization, the corrosive effects of the Great Depression, xenophobia, and authoritarianism.

How did France (and Europe) collapse? How did the country (and the continent) recover? We will look at the cost of victory in World War I, France’s defeat in 1940, collaboration and resistance, and the war’s difficult aftermath. Throughout this period, France was an empire as well as a nation-state and we will study how the empire and its violent dissolution, especially the Algerian war, have mattered to creating the country we will visit in May.

The following books have been ordered from the Coop.

Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, *14-18: Understanding the Great War*  
George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*  
Alan Riding, *And The Show Went On*  
Hélène Berr, *The Journal of Hélène Berr*  
Marguerite Duras, *The War*  
Richard Golsan, *Vichy’s Afterlife*

We will see the following films

- *Life and Nothing But* (Bertrand Tavernier, 1989)  
- *Shoah* (only sections of it; Claude Lanzmann, 1974)  
- *The Round-up* (Rose Bosch, 2010)  
- *Army of Shadows* (Jean-Pierre Melville, 1969) (on the resistance, by the great film noir director)  
- *The Battle of Algiers* (Gillo Pontecorvo, 1966)  
- Either *La Haine* (Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995) or *Un Prophète* (Jacques Audiard, 2010)
I also recommend

- *Le Dernier Metro* (François Truffaut, 1980)
- *Lacombe, Lucien* (Louis Malle, 1974) a study of collaboration
- *Au revoir les enfants* (Louis Malle, 1987) on the deportation of Jewish children
- *The Sorrow and the Pity: Chronicle of a French City under the Occupation* (Marcel Ophüls, 1969) (very long and very good)
- *Hotel Terminus: The Life and Times of Klaus Barbie* (Marcel Ophüls, 1988) (also very long and very good)
- *Outside the Law* (Rachid Bouchareb, 2011)
- *Land and Freedom* (Ken Loach, 1995) on the Spanish Civil War
- *To Die in Madrid* (Frederic Roussif, 1963) The Spanish Civil War; very hard to find, but excellent
- *Hope and Glory* (John Boorman, 1987) a 9 year old’s experience of the Blitz

Course requirements:
- **Attendance** is required, as per Normandy regulations
- **Discussions of reading, lectures, and films**: 20%. Since this is a small class, participation and quality of participation matter. Prepare carefully, and be prepared to talk or write about the readings. Listen to each other. Be prepared to summarize another person’s argument, especially when you disagree with it. Do not consider your own position final. Bring everyone in to the discussion. Discussion is a collective as well as an individual responsibility.
- 3 short papers: 2 of them 4 pages (25% each); one 6 pages (30%)

Course policies
- Please come on time.
- No laptops or mobile phones in the classroom- UNLESS THE MEDIA IN OUR NEW ROOM DOESN'T WORK.
- I use +/- grades (for example A-, C+, etc.).
- Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations. [http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssl/](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssl/)
- It is easy to copy from the web. It’s also easy to catch. I will give you a zero for the paper.

And, of course, all federal, state, and university policies apply to us.

**SCHEDULE**

**Week One (Jan 15 and 17): Paris: capital of the 19th century**


*Life and Nothing But* in film series

**Week Two (Jan 22 and 24): The Great War**

Reading:
T: Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, *Understanding the Great War*, chs. 1-2 (on experience of combat) 4-5 (on barbarism and war fever)
TH: King, ed. The First World War, 197-219 (excerpts from Graves, *Goodbye to all that)*

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1 *= on Blackboard
Week Three (Jan 29 and 31): A Haunted Peace

Reading:
T: Audoin-Rouzeau and Becker, chs. 7-end.
TH: Modris Eksteins, *The Rites of Spring*, ch 9 “Memory” *
We will also be discussing *All Quiet on the Western Front*, which you are reading for Crew’s class.
Daniel J. Sherman, *The Construction of Memory in Intern war France*, epilogue (read this for your paper)

Week Four (Feb 5 and 7): Changing the World?

Reading:
George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*, begin.

Week Five (Feb 12 and 14): Fleeing war: refugees and appeasement

Reading:
Orwell, *Homage*, finish If you find the political parties and organizations confusing, Wikipedia has a helpful summary and a good map. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homage_to_Catalonia
Optional: Coffin on Koestler http://www.notevenpast.org/read/scum-earth-1941
Louis Menand, “The Invention of George Orwell,” *The New Yorker* (Jan, 2003)*

Week Six (Feb 19 and 21): 1940: The British Empire and the French Republic

I’d like you to read (and, if you can, listen to) parts of three of Winston Churchill’s justly famous speeches.  
1) “Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat.” First Speech as Prime Minister to House of Commons, May 13, 1940  
   audio: http://www.archive.org/details/Winston Churchill item 12 (first speech as prime minister) 
2) “We Shall Fight on the Beaches:” Speech to House of Commons June 4, 1940.  
   This is a long one. Read the first few and the last six paragraphs. Long text: 
   Audio (2.5 minutes) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTw3_PmKtc  
   Audio: http://www.archive.org/details/Winston Churchill item 12 (12 minutes) “we shall never surrender” 
3) “Their Finest Hour:” Speech to House of Commons June 18, 1940. 
   Text and audio at 

Week Seven (Feb 26 and 28) War Again, France: Collaboration
Reading:
Charles de Gaulle, Charles Cogan, ed., headnotes and documents in ch 6, pp 169-182*
Riding, *And the Show Went On*, chs 1-3. Who was ready to cooperate with the Germans and why? Who resisted

*Army of Shadows* in the film series

**Week Eight (March 5 and 7) Surviving in Vichy France**

Riding, *And The Show went on*, chs

**SPRING BREAK**

Read *The Journal of Hélène Berr* over vacation.

**Week Nine (March 19 and 21) Dying in Vichy France**

Reading: Helene Berr, *The Journal of Hélène Berr*
NYRB Nov 16, 2006.* (read this quickly, for the portraits of Bousquet and Darquier, who are important figures in *La Rafle*.)

**Week Ten (March 26 and 28) The Liberation**

Reading: Marguerite Duras, *The War*

**Week Eleven (April 2 and 4) Recovery, Retribution, Redemption?**

Reading:
Jean Paul Sartre, “The Republic of Silence;”*
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, introduction*

→ Tuesday April 2 2nd paper due

**Week Twelve (April 9 and 11) Postwar Justice or Vichy on Trial**

Reading:
Richard Golsan, *Vichy's Afterlife*, introduction, chs.1, 5, 9 and conclusion
Claude Lanzmann, *The Patagonian Hare*, chapter 20 – you might also want to read some reviews of *Shoah*.

**Week Thirteen (April 16 and 18) The Algerian War**

Reading:
Albert Camus, “Algeria,” in *Resistance, Rebellion, and Death*, 111-153*

*The Battle of Algiers* in film series

**Week Fourteen (April 23 and 25) Being There**
Discussion of our visit to Paris. Your assignment: make sure you have a raincoat and download maps of Paris! Check out the Paris 3D project.

⇒ TH APRIL 25 3rd paper due