

POLS147C: The Politics of France

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This course surveys French politics since World War II, with emphasis on the following areas: France's constitutional arrangements; the party system; public opinion, voting behavior and participation; mass-elite linkages; the politics of immigration and the European Union.

Examinations: There are two in-class midterm exams, and a final examination. All of these exams (closed book) will consist of objective, short-answers questions as well as longer essay questions. Approximately one week before each examination, we will distribute study questions to aid student preparation.

Grading: The final grades will be based on the examinations, in the following proportions: First midterm 30%; second midterm 30%; final examination 40%.

The following books are available at the UC Davis bookstore:

Russell Dalton (2013). *Citizen Politics in Western Democracies*, 6th edition

Alistaire Cole (2017). *French Politics and Society*, 3rd edition

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION (April 2)

Note: There is no lecture on Thursday, April 4

2. POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS: FRANCE UNDER THE FOURTH REPUBLIC, AND THE TRANSITION TO THE FIFTH REPUBLIC (April 9-30)

Cole, chapters 1, 2, 4, 5.

First midterm exam: Thursday, May 2

3. FRENCH POLITICAL PARTIES (May 7-14)

Cole, chapters 8-9.

Dalton, chapter 7.

4. PUBLIC OPINION, VOTING, AND ELECTIONS: SOME BASICS (May 16-21)

Dalton, chapters 6, 8-10.

Adams, James, Michael Clark, Lawrence Ezrow, and Garrett Glasgow. 2006. "Are niche parties fundamentally different from mainstream parties? The causes and the electoral consequences of Western European parties' policy shifts, 1976-1998." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(3): 513-529. (This is posted under "files" on the class web site.)

Second midterm exam: Thursday, May 23

5. A WILD RIDE: POLITICAL DISFUNCTION, THE RISE OF EMMANUEL MACRON, AND FRANCE'S INTERNAL DIVISIONS (May 28-June 6)

Cole, chapter 3, plus chapter 10 is optional.

Gidron, Noam, James Adams, and Will Horne. 2019. "How ideology, economics, and institutions shape affective polarization in western societies." Typescript. (This paper will be posted under "files" on the class web site.)

Additional reading to be assigned

FINAL EXAMINATION: Friday June 7, 10:30am-12:30pm