



## IFE course syllabus

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### Course title

#### **France in Europe and the World (1945-2008)**

### Course taught by

Birte Wassenberg

### Purpose of the course

This course provides students with fundamental keys to understanding France today in terms of its colonial past, its real and perceived role on the world stage, and the several versions of the question of decline that currently color the French outlook. Its successful adaptation in the face of the upheavals of the 20th century, its transformation into an industrial power, and its leadership role in establishing a peaceful Europe have, in turn, led to further challenges and questions of French identity. These include the question of nation and European community, the notion of State in a modern context, and others. Domestic and foreign policies overlap and interact. This course uses France's place in Europe and the world to lead students to an understanding of the new political and social makeup of France that is slowly emerging, a source of both doubt and hope.

### Course format

The format of this course has been designed for maximum pedagogical effectiveness in light of constraints of a course offered intensively over a short period of time. Accordingly, the course comprises two types of sessions. The morning session is given over to a largely lecture format (although the Small size of the group makes it possible for students to ask questions and for teachers to engage students). The lecture session also reflects a European approach to university education whereby lecture material is as important or more so than reading. In the afternoon, a shorter session adopts a workshop format, with the emphasis on assimilating lecture material through discussion, debate, reading of the press and other students' participatory exercises. Student participation is both informal (debate and discussion) and more structured methodologically (oral exposés, press reviews, and other presentations)."

### Course outline

#### Introduction

- 1 From Colonial Power to Defender of the Third World**  
1944-1954: Reconquest (From WWII Liberation to Diên Biên Phu)  
1954-1962: Decolonization  
1962-2007: Between development policy and interventionism: Post-colonial France.
- 2 The United States: Ally and Protector**  
1945-1965: The American umbrella.  
1965-1995: The quest for a balanced alliance.  
1995-2007: A fractured alliance.
- 3 France, Founding Member of the European Union (1948-1993)**  
The French founding fathers of Europe.  
An anti-nationalist ideology comes of age.
- 4 The French Crisis of Europe (1994-2007)**  
Gaullism as a motor for European power.  
Federalism versus sovereinism.  
France at the center of Europe.

## 5 The French Crisis of Europe (1994-2007)

France-Germany: an inversion of powers.

The weakening of the State.

L'absence de majorité de gouvernement.

### Conclusion: La France, grande Puissance ou grande Ambitieuse ?

La reconstruction, le « rattrapage », et ensuite ?

Les trente glorieuses, rétablissement de la France ou normalisation ?

La France, acteur ambigu de la « Communauté internationale ».

### Readings

Badi, Bertrand (2004), *L'Impuissance de la Puissance, Essai sur les nouvelles Relations internationales*, Paris : Fayard.

Berstein, Serge et Pierre Milza (1995), *Histoire de la France au XXe siècle*, Bruxelles : Complexe.

Bitsch, Marie-Thérèse (1999) *Histoire de la Construction européenne*, Bruxelles : Complexe, 2<sup>e</sup> édition.

Boniface, Pascal (1998), *La France est-elle encore une grande Puissance?* Paris : Presses de Sciences-Po.

Bryant, Janet (2000), *France and NATO from 1966 to Kosovo : Coming Full Circle?* *European Security*, 9 (3), pp.21-37.

Dinan, Desmond (1999), *Ever closer Union : an Introduction to European Integration*, London: Macmillan.

Grosser, Alfred (1989), *Affaires extérieures : la politique de la France, 1944-1989*, Paris : Flammarion.

Koopmann, Martin et Hans Stark (2004) *La France, l'Allemagne et l'Europe : perspectives. 2, Quel avenir ? Relations franco-allemandes et PESD*, Paris : Institut français des relations internationales. Stark, Hans et Vaillant, Jérôme (2003) *Approches croisées de la Constitution européenne*, *Allemagne d'aujourd'hui*, n°164, p.3-82.

Mongin, Dominique (1997) *La bombe atomique française : 1945-1958*, Paris : LGDJ.

Moreau Desfarges, Philippe (1999), *Les Etats-Unis et la France, la Puissance entre Mythes et Réalités, Les Notes de l'IFRI, n°6*, Paris ; IFRI.

Nouschi, André (2005) *Les armes retournées : colonisation et décolonisation françaises*, Paris : Belin.

Pervillé, Guy (1991) *De l'Empire français à la décolonisation*, Paris : Hachette.

Pond, Elisabeth (2002) *The Rebirth of Europe*, Second edition, Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 329p.

Rous, Jean (1965) *Chronique de la décolonisation*, Paris : Présence africaine.

### Grading

Student work is evaluated on the basis of a written examination at the end of the course the grade for which is averaged with grades received for oral présentations, reading reports, and press reviews prepared for the afternoon workshop, as well as student's level of participation in the workshop.

