



## IFE course syllabus

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### Course title

#### **Structure, Transformation and Crises in French Society**

### Course taught by

Sophie Enos-Attali

Teacher/researcher in Political Science, International Relations and Contemporary History, Sophie Enos-Attali holds a doctorate in Political Science from the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris ("Sciences Po") as well as an ABD in International Relations from the University of Paris and an ABD in History from the same institution. An associate professor of Political Science at the Institut Catholique de Paris, where she is the director of Master's theses in the social sciences, Sophie also has nearly two decades of experience teaching French politics and society to American students in education abroad programs in Paris. Her research activities include work as a member of the Research Unit "Religion, Culture and Society" as well as of the Thucydides Center for International Research, both of the University of Paris.

### Purpose of the course

The purpose of this course is to provide students the necessary keys for deciphering the structure of contemporary French society as well as the issues that divide it. A multi-part focus on demographic and economic data, on social systems, on social issues and problems, and on the societal importance of culture provides students - as much as is possible - with an insider's perspective on and knowledge of French society.

### Description of the course

The course relies not only on material presented by the professor but also on exchange and debate with and by students. Students are encouraged to share their observations and perceptions of how French society functions, including by comparison with specific aspects of American society. A certain number of class meetings will be devoted to a debate on certain public policy choices made by French society.

### Course format (including visits, audiovisual material, etc.)

The format of this course has been designed for maximum pedagogical effectiveness in light of the constraints of a course offered intensively over a short period of time. Accordingly, the course comprises two types of sessions, with lecture/seminar meetings alternating with discussion sections. Students are expected to participate in both informal debate and discussion as well as formal presentations (oral exposés, press reviews, and the like).

Each course of the preparatory session also includes appropriate site visits.

This course meets approximately 48 hours, including mandatory site visits.

### Course outline

- I** From the traditional family to "Marriage for Everyone"
- II** The French social safety net, a source of pride and worry
- III** French children in school
- IV** Being a university student in France; advantages and disadvantages
- V** France at work
- VI** French society in the face of the Crisis

- VII** A fragmented society
- VIII** Immigration into France
- IX** Policies for equal opportunity
- X** Laïcité : the French model for religious tolerance
- XI** France, between republicanism and multiculturalism
- XII** Culture: a political matter
- XIII** Cultural philanthropy in question
- XIV** French society's cultural practices
- XV** The goal of "Culture for Everyone": is it attainable?

## Readings

Cassely, Jean-Laurent et Jérôme Fourquet. *La France sous nos yeux*. Paris, Seuil, 2021

Crozet, Yves, Dominique Bolliet, Jean Fleury. *Les Grandes Questions de la société française*. Paris, Armand Colin, 2005

Fassin, Didier. *Les Nouvelles Frontières de la société française*. Paris, La Découverte, 2012

Fourquet, Jérôme. *L'Archipel français*. Paris, Le Seuil, 2020

- Galland, Olivier et Yannick Lemel (dir.). *La Société française : un bilan sociologique des évolutions depuis l'après-guerre*. Paris, Armand Colin, 2011

INSEE. *France, portrait social. 2018*, disponible à l'adresse <http://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/3646226>

Morrison, Donald. *Que reste-t-il de la culture française ?*, suivi de Antoine Compagnon, *Le Souci de la grandeur*. Paris, Denoël, 2008

- Noiriel, Gérard. *Gens d'ici, venus d'ailleurs, la France de l'immigration de 1900 à nos jours*, Paris, Ed. du Chêne 2004

Poirrier, Philippe. *L'Etat et la culture en France au XXe siècle*, Paris, Livre de Poche, 2000

Weil, Patrick, *De la laïcité en France*. Paris, Grasset, 2021

Site Internet d'Eurostat [epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu)

Site du musée de l'Histoire de l'immigration <http://www.histoire-immigration.fr/ressources>

Site de l'Observatoire des inégalités: <https://www.inegalites>

## Grading

Student work is evaluated on the basis of a mid-term essay and a written examination at the end of the course, the grades for which are averaged with the participation grade based on oral presentations, press reviews and discussion participation.

## Equivalent in american university course offerings:

This course is pluridisciplinary by design. Nonetheless it could be considered as comparable to a course in French Sociology, Comparative Sociology, Modern French Society, or even French Public Policy.