



IFE course syllabus

Course title

France in the World since 1945

Course taught by

Yauheni Kryzhanouski holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Strasbourg, with a specialization in comparative politics, European affairs and international relations. Yauheni is a researcher associated with the University of Strasbourg's research institute SAGE (Society, Actors, and Government in Europe) as well as with the Study Center for Russian, Caucasian and Central European Societies (CERCEC) of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (Paris). He has taught at the University of Strasbourg, Sciences Po Strasbourg, and the European Humanities University (Vilnius). His research interests include protest and censure in contemporary authoritarian regimes, the role of European organizations, and the transnational dissemination of political practices.

Recent publication: Yauheni Kryzhanouski, Dominique Marchetti & Bella Ostromoukhova (dir.), *L'invisibilisation de la censure. Les nouveaux modes de contrôle des productions culturelles* (Biélorus, France, Maroc et Russie), Paris Sorbonne Université, 2020.

Purpose of the course

The course intends to provide a systematic view of French foreign policy and foreign policy debate, since the end of the Second World War. French diplomacy played an extremely important role in the world right from the beginning of international politics in the 17th century. Against that backdrop, the period since 1945 is usually seen as a decline in French international power and influence, in favor first of the United States and then of Europe.

Description of the course

After 1945 French foreign policy has been a dialectic between the realities of a mid-rank power and the actions and aspirations of a major power. On one hand France was humiliated and devastated during WWII but on the other hand finished in the camp of the winners, developed nuclear weapon capacity and acquired a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. France lost all of its colonies but retained power and influence in many parts of its former empire. A capitalist system and part of the western world, France nonetheless maintains policy perspectives that are independent of American influence, including an autonomous role during the Cold War. Lastly, France strives to maintain its sovereignty while playing an important role in European integration. The latter being central to French international policy, the course devotes a good deal of discussion to European affairs.

Course format

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 32 hours, including mandatory site visits.

Course outline

- I Introduction. France in international relations since WWII**
- II Coming out of WWII, decolonization, France's Africa policy**
 - 2.1. How did France end up in the winner's circle at the end of the War?
 - 2.2. The beginning of the Cold War, the search for a third way, joining other Western powers (1945-1951)
 - 2.3. Beginnings of European integration and the French-German reconciliation
 - 2.4. Decolonization in France
 - 2.5. France's Africa Policy
- III France, the Cold War, and NATO**
 - 3.1. The concept of a cold war
 - 3.2. De Gaulle's foreign policy: independent or aligned with the Western bloc?
 - 3.3. Caretaking the Gaullist legacy
 - 3.4. The end of the Cold War
- IV French initiatives for European integration: The Council of Europe, European Union, OSCE...**
 - 4.1. The stakes of European integration
 - 4.2. Historical attempts at European integration
 - 4.3. Intergovernmental approach vs federalism
 - 4.4. The Council of Europe
 - 4.5. OSCE
- V History of the EU: between economic cooperation and political sovereignty**
 - 5.1. Integration increases
 - 5.2. Enlargement of the Union
 - 5.3. Institutions
 - 5.4. Decision-making processes
 - 5.5. The EU's public health response to Covid-19

Sample bibliography

- Bertrand Badie, *L'Impuissance de la puissance ; essai sur les incertitudes et les espoirs des nouvelles relations internationales*, Paris, Fayard, 2004
- Bertrand Badie & Dominique Vidal (dir.), *La France, une puissance contrariée. L'état du monde 2022*, Paris, La Découverte, 2021
- Yves Bertoncini & Thierry Chopin, *Politique européenne. États, pouvoirs et citoyens de l'Union européenne*, Paris, Presses de Sciences po/Dalloz, 2010.
- Pascal Boniface, *La France est-elle encore une grande Puissance?*, Paris, Presses de Sciences-Po, 1998
- Frédéric Bozo, *La Politique étrangère de la France depuis 1945*, Paris, Flammarion, 2019
- Guillaume Devin, *Sociologie des relations internationales*, Paris, La Découverte, 2018
- Robert Frank (dir.), *Pour l'histoire des relations internationales*, Paris, PUF, 2012
- Niilo Kauppi (dir.), *A Political Sociology of Transnational Europe*, Colchester, ECPR Press, 2013.
- Elisabeth Lambert Abdelgawad & Hélène Michel (dir.), *Dictionnaire des acteurs de l'Europe*, Bruxelles, Larcier, 2014.
- Franck Orban, *La France et la puissance*, Bruxelles, Peter Lang Publishing, 2011

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 can be considered as equivalent to an American university course in modern European diplomatic history, or European affairs since WWII, or the history of European integration.