



MODERN FRANCE SINCE 1870

Instructor: Zaretsky
Course Number: HIST 3352H
Class Number: 20991
Day & Time: TTh 10:00—11:30 am

From pickle elevators and melting clocks to repeated revolutions and resistance to real and imaginary occupiers, the history of modern France veers from the surreal to sublime. This course will examine the ways in which modern France shaped, defined and (re)-invented itself through literature, art, music and history writing from 1870 to 1968. How did Paris shape the concept of the French nation? And how did parts of the nation—regions like Provence and Brittany, faiths like Protestants, Jews and Muslims, communities of immigrants from North Africa and expatriates from America—respond to such representations? Though the readings will be limited to France, they will also help us better understand the phenomenon of “imagined communities” and the role that writers and intellectuals, the powerful and marginal, play in their construction. Along with a textbook, novels and memoirs will be assigned to students.