

Descriptif d'enseignement / *Course descriptions*

3^{ème} année internationale / International undergraduate program

Semestres 1 et 2

Titre du cours - *Course title*

French Politics and Institutions.

Type de cours : Cours magistral

Langue du cours/Language of instruction : English

Enseignant(s) – *Professor(s)*

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Résumé du cours – Objectifs - *Course description – Targets*

These nine weeks lecture in Political Science aims to analyse the main aspects of the French political institutions and actors, since the birth of the current Fifth Republic, in 1958. The first part of this course aims to present the outlines of the French political order: that is to say, the functioning of the French semi-presidential system and relationships between the main power figures (such as the Prime Minister, the President of the Republic and the Members of Parliament), relationships between central level and sub-central level (since the laws of decentralization) powers, functions of the State and characteristics of the high civil servants (education, career...).

The second part of this seminar will present the main French political actors: political parties and the functioning of political competition; representation of women in politics; the political activists. Finally, we will deal with the main debates about the French political life. This lecture aims to give you the main tools to participate and understand the key debates of the French political life, during your stay in France.

Evaluation - *Assessment*

Attendance: 10% of the overall grade.

Oral Presentation: 30% of the overall grade.

Written essay: 60% of the overall grade (10 000-15 000 characters, spaces included).

Plan – Séances - *Course outline*

General Introduction.

Part 1: The French political order.

Chapter 1: The French Fifth Republic birth in 1958 and the legacy of Gaullism.

Chapter 2:

- The functioning of the French semi-presidential system (part 1).

- The functioning of the French semi-presidential system (part 2).

Chapter 3: The State and civil servants in France.

Chapter 4 : Local governments: relationships between central and sub-central level powers, laws of decentralization.

Part 2: Political actors.

Chapter 5: Political parties and traditional cleavages in France.

Chapter 6: Women in politics: powers, political functions, representation, political participation.

Chapter 7: Conventional and unconventional forms of political participation.

General Conclusion.

Bibliographie - Bibliography :

Nicholas Atkin, *The Fifth French Republic*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

David S. Bell, *Parties and democracy in France: parties under presidentialism*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000.

Brouard Sylvain, Appleton Andrew, Mazur Amy G., *The French Fifth Republic at Fifty. Beyond Stereotypes*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Alistair Cole, *French politics and society*, London, Pearson Longman, 2005.

Alistair Cole, *Governing and governance in France*, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Alistair Cole, Patrick Le Galès, Jonah D. Levy (eds), *Developments in French Politics 4*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Robert Elgie, *Political institutions in contemporary France*, Oxford University Press, 2003.

Robert Elgie, Steven Griggs, *French politics. Debates and Controversies*, New York, Routledge, 2000.

Robert Elgie (al.), *Oxford Handbook of French Politics*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2017.

John Gaffney, *Political leadership in France: from Charles de Gaulle to Nicolas Sarkozy*, Basingstoke, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Emiliano Grossman et Nicolas Sauger, (dir.). *France's Political Institutions at 50*. Routledge, 2009. 216 p. (West European Politics Series).

Andrew Knapp, *Parties and the party system in France: a disconnected democracy?* Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

Peter Mair, *The West European party system*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1990.

William Safran, *The French polity*, London, Pearson Longman, cop. 2009.

Academic Reviews (you can access some scientific articles on CAIRN' platform, with your sciences po passwords):

In English:

Contemporary French and Francophone Studies.

Democratization.

European Journal of Communication.

French Politics.

Modern and Contemporary France.

Representation.

West European Politics.

In French:

Revue Française de Science Politique.

Politix.

Revue Française de Sociologie.

Newspapers :

Libération ; Le Monde ; Le Figaro.