HUMANITIES 310 - FRENCH CIVILIZATION

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BOOKS REQUIRED:

Voltaire:             Candide. Dover Edition (or any edition)
Gustave Flaubert:    Madame Bovary. Dover Edition (or any edition)

Erich Wolfgang Skwara: Black Sails. Ariadne Press, Riverside, California

(With reference to above mentioned books, I have ordered with our campus bookstore the least expensive - at times greatly shortened - editions available. However, any edition is acceptable, since only your careful reading of these texts is of the essence.)

You cannot live meaningfully without a solid knowledge of the past, and for our Western World the concept of Past and shared Culture implies a great many areas, languages, eras - our summits in a way. One of these summits of collective human experience is the History and Civilization of France and its finely tuned, very much alive general culture - altogether a precious contribution to world culture. Whatever has happened in that country and its realm of influence intellectually and artistically, and sometimes politically, it always mirrored and influenced the entire European continent and our Western World at large. The mere concept of the United States of America must be considered a brainchild of 18th Century French Enlightenment. Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Germany's greatest mind and poet, once said that every civilized human being has two homelands: his or her own and France. Our course will put this strong statement to the test.

The one textbook we shall use is designed to serve as a backbone and basis for your factual study outside of and prior to coming to the classroom. However, I shall mainly use lecture style in my teaching and will touch upon a great number of issues not contained in this book. I encourage you to interrupt and challenge my lectures with your ideas and questions whenever appropriate. You are required to take careful personal notes during our class sessions; without these notes and therefore by utmost necessity your PERSONAL PRESENCE at our once weekly meetings you will not succeed in this course. I do not merely intend to teach French History, but to give you