Professor Erik Homenick  
Email: ehomenick@mail.sdsu.edu  
Class location: AL 102  
Office Hours: AL 634 / Tuesday 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

_Tout homme a deux pays, le sien et puis la France._
_Every man has two countries, his own and France._  
- Henri de Bornier

France is widely considered to be the home of one of the great cultures of the world. France’s cuisine, literature, architecture, fashion, cinema and way of life (la joie de vivre) have been admired the world over for centuries. Why is this? And just what exactly is French culture, anyway?

This course seeks to answer those questions by providing a general but wide-ranging introduction to France and its culture through examination and discussion of that country’s history, literature, philosophers, fine arts, social mores and day-to-day way of life.

These (and other) facets of French culture will be explored via a series of texts, films, lively open forum-style discussions and written essays.

No knowledge of the French language is needed to take this course; the class will be taught entirely in English. (Though French words and terms will often be used.)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- Have broad familiarity with France and salient components of its culture
- Have a general knowledge of various important moments in French history
- Be able to discuss major French contributions to the arts, literature and philosophy
- Develop an awareness and sensitivity to French social customs
- Be able to write and converse about French culture in a variety of settings (in-class, essays, exam)

COURSEWORK

In addition to the reading of texts and film viewings, you will write two formal essays and take a final exam. Time will be taken in class to prepare you to do as well as possible on all of these elements of the coursework.
PARTICIPATION

Regular and alert attendance is expected. You need to do the readings before class so that we can make the most use of our time together. While I will lecture and explain things as we move along, we will also regularly use our time for discussion as well. All students are expected to contribute to discussion.

Poor, irregular attendance not only adversely affects your understanding and retention of the material, but it may also affect your overall participation grade. One unexcused absence is permitted, but additional absences must be discussed with me.

POLICIES

Incivility will not be tolerated. That includes any disruptive or unproductive behavior as well as lesser forms of discourtesy such as texting, checking e-mail, sleeping, talking over others, and the like. I reserve the right to ask those who are disruptive or deliberately offensive to leave the room. Additionally, I reserve the right to ask you to leave if you are obviously unprepared or unwilling to contribute to the class.

This will be an electronics-free classroom.

CHEATING

Copying from others is a form of theft and will result in a grade of F on the exam or quiz in question.

STUDENT DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

GRADING

Essay 1 - 25%
Essay 2 - 25%
Class participation - 20%
Final exam - 30%
COURSE SCHEDULE

I reserve the right to make changes the schedule, depending on how we are doing in discussion. In the event of any changes, you will be notified through Blackboard. Readings for each week must be completed before you come to class.


Feb. 14: The Enlightenment and the French Revolution. The French National Anthem. Reading: Natural Right by Denis Diderot. Frenchmen, again an effort if you want to be Republicans (excerpt) by The Marquis de Sade


Mar. 21: La gastronomie. Cheese, Wine, Snails and the French Dinner Table. Is it all Haute Cuisine? Readings to be announced. ESSAY 1 DUE.

- SPRING BREAK -

Apr. 4: La Musique: A Survey of French music, from the countryside to the concert hall. From bombardes to accordions, from Hector Berlioz to Pierre Boulez. Readings to be announced. ESSAY 2 ASSIGNED.


May 2: Conclusions and Review. How have your perceptions of France and its people changed? Readings to be announced. ESSAY 2 DUE.

DAY AND TIME OF FINAL EXAM TO BE ANNOUNCED.