Notes: Some assignments are subject to change.
There is a reading assignment for the first class. Please come prepared to discuss it.

The Graduate School and University Center
Ph.D. Program in History
Spring 2014
History 71500
France and its Empire, 1830-1962

Professor Evelyn Ackerman
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Office: GC room 5106
Hours: Thursday 5:30-6:30 and by appointment. Other times can be arranged.

Course Description:
This course will look at the interplay between the French Empire and the metropole from the conquest of Algeria until its independence in 1962. French colonization activities in Indochina, other areas of North Africa, and West Africa will also be integral parts of the course’s agenda. Emphasis will be placed on initial contacts, questions of perceiving “The Other,” and French attitudes toward Empire, the old question of assimilation versus accommodation, and the indigenous reaction toward the French presence.

The ways in which the French tried to shape power relations and everyday life will be examined with areas such as education, gender, domestic life, religion, and medicine receiving special attention. Sources include secondary literature and as many colonial voices as possible.

As France’s push toward Empire intensified in the 1880s, we will examine the competing models offered by Alice Conklin and Gary Wilder to understand the decades after 1885. The rise of the negritude movement and independence struggles will be addressed as well as the complexities surrounding the achievement of political independence by the former colonies.

Objectives: Students will study the development of the French Empire and the recent historiographical discussions surrounding its relationship with the metropole. Students will be exposed to a variety of documents and gain expertise in the evaluation of these materials.

Requirements and Evaluation: Active participation in class discussions forms an integral part of the course (and 50% of the grade.) A 20-25 page paper either on a historiographical or research topic and several 2-page response papers form the other 50% of the grade. The topic for the long paper will be chosen after consultation with the instructor.

LIST OF BOOKS WHERE OVER 50 PAGES WILL BE READ.
Titles with an * will be read in their entirety.
Where fewer than 50 pages will be read, bibliographical information is given in the syllabus.
All books will be on reserve. All articles will be available either in ejournals or on Blackboard.
(Some changes, but not many, may be made.)


SYLLABUS
Jan 30: Introduction: France’s Complicated History
Readings: Conklin, Fishman, and Zaretsky, France and its Empire since 1870 (hereafter abbreviated as CFZ), ch 1, 2.
Balzac, Old Goriot. any edition

Feb 6: Forming a Lasting Republic
Readings: CFZ, ch 3-5.
Feb 13: Wars and Fascism, 1914-1945
Readings: CFZ, ch 6-9.

Feb 20: NO CLASS

Feb 27: Postwar Recovery
Readings: CFZ, chs 10-11.

Mar 6: Conquest before 1885

Mar 13: The Push into Africa: French Goals

Mar 20: Family, Gender, and Education
Marie-Paule Ha, “‘La femme française aux colonies’: Promoting Colonial Female Emigration at the Turn of the Century,” *French Colonial History* 6 (2005), 205-224.

Mar 27: Health and Medicine
Apr 3: Indigenous Voices, Colonial Voices
Readings: Maran, Batouala.
Truong Bun Lam, Ch 2 “The Vietnamese Perception of Colonialism,” Colonialism Experienced: Vietnamese Writings on Colonialism, 39-68.

Apr 10: World War I and the Negritude Movement

Apr 17: Spring Break

Apr 24: Theorizing about “the Other” and the Colonial Exposition of 1931
Readings: Lebovics, True France: The Wars over Cultural Identity, 1900-1945.

May 1: World War II
Readings: Jennings, Vichy in the Tropics: Pétain’s National Revolution in Madagascar, Guadeloupe, and Indochina.

May 8: Struggles for Independence
Memmi, The Colonizer and the Colonized.
Brocheux and Hémery, Indochina, 281-379.

May 15: The Algerian War
Readings: Shepard, The Invention of Decolonization.
de Beauvoir and Halimi, Djamila Bouacha: The Story of the Torture of a Young Girl which Shocked Liberal French Opinion.