**SPRING 2018 EFR 320**

A study of contemporary France, in light of its history, society, art, and literature, with an emphasis on traditions, life-styles, habits and customs, and overall concerns about changing cultural and national identities. Focus will be placed on contemporary French politics, education, religion, and the arts – including popular culture -- especially those aspects that best illustrate consistent and enduring national traits, values and attitudes. Also, by drawing comparisons between French/European and American cultures, the course will examine social and political issues affecting the Europe Union such as economy, immigration, political institutions, and foreign policies. The course will explore the many culturally conditioned types of behavior that are transmitted through unwritten codes of behavior which are constantly reevaluated due to international and multicultural contacts. Thanks to the interdisciplinary nature of the course, students will gain a better understanding of aspects of French singularity (i.e., centralization, distinctions between Paris and provinces, Left/Right divisions in politics) which are brought out through analysis of cross-cultural categories (i.e., political organization and ideology, gender, social class). This interdisciplinary course covers three distinct areas or disciplines, namely: 1) Political Science and History; 2) Cultural Studies, Art and Society, and 3) Mass Media Studies, Cinema and Technology.