100.302 History of the French-Algerian War, 1954-1962
Spring 2010

Professor Todd Shepard

Course Description
The Algerian Revolution (1954-1962) successfully challenged French claims that Algeria was part of France and led to an independent Algerian Republic. This struggle is often seen as the touchstone anti-colonial struggle as well as the matrix for modern forms of terrorism and state-sponsored torture. We will explore its history.

Readings:
The following required books can be purchased at the Barnes & Noble Johns Hopkins Bookstore; however, I recommend that you look for used copies on-line. For all of these books, any edition is acceptable; if you prefer, all of them exist in French versions:
Albert Camus, First Man
Assia Djebar, Children of the New World: A Novel of the Algerian War
Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth, with preface by Jean-Paul Sartre (if your copy does not have this preface, let me know)
Henri Alleg, The Question
Todd Shepard, The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War and the Remaking of France
Benjamin Stora, Algeria, 1830-2000: A Short History

All asterisked (*) readings are on electronic reserves through the library, which you can access through the university’s portal at http://my.jhu.edu.

NB: In addition to the scheduled classes, we will arrange to see the following films:
Battle of Algiers, dir. By Gillo Pontecorvo (1965)
Outremer, Brigitte Rouan (1990)
Exils, dir. By Tony Gatlif (2004) or another TBD
Caché, dir by Michael Haneke (2005)

Schedule of Classes

Week 1 (25 January) Introduction

Week 2 (1 February) An Overview
Stora, all

Week 3 (8 February): Historiographic Debates, France and Algeria
Shepard, introduction
Week 4 (15 February): French Algeria: the Settler Colony
Camus, all Shepard, 19-54


Week 5 (22 February): Terrorism


Week 6 (1 March): Torture
Alleg, all.  

Week 7 (8 March) In-Class Presentation of Topics
BREAK
Week 8 (22 March): Algerian Elites and France
Ferraoun, ix-xiii; xl-xliv; 11-153; 248-52; 275-315.
*Stephen Tyre, ‘From Algérie Française to France Musulmane: Jacques Soustelle and the Myths and Realities of “Integration”’, French History 20 (2006), 276-296

Week 9 (29 March): Colonized vs. Colonizer: the Algerian Revolution
Shepard, 55-81
Fanon, all, including Jean-Paul Sartre, “Introduction”

Week 10 (5 April): Children of the New World
Djebar, all

Week 11 (12 April): de Gaulle, the Algerian War, and the International Stage
Connelly, ‘A Diplomatic Revolution,’ 3-13; 119-141; 173-214
Shepard, 82-135


Week 12 (19 April) Women, the Veil, and Algeria’s Future
Shepard, 183-204
*Frantz Fanon, “Algeria Unveiled,” in Fanon, A Dying Colonialism (1965), 35-68


Week 13 (26 April): The Battle of Paris and the Forgetting of French Algeria


Shepard, 207-272

We will meet an additional time, so that you can present your work and findings.

Further Information

Class meets M 1:30pm - 3:45pm in Dunning Hall 408

Contact information for Dr. Shepard: Office hours are T, 12:15-1:30 pm, or by appointment, in Suite 1401 Office B, Dell House, 2850 N. George St.; can be reached at (410)516-8512, or tshep75@jhu.edu (FYI: I do not guarantee that emails will receive quick responses and I rarely check my phone messages between Wednesday and Monday mornings.)

Course Policies

You are expected to attend class regularly, to do all required reading, and to be prepared to participate very actively in class discussion. It is expected that you will ask questions when you do not understand or agree with what is being said in class or is in the reading. It is required that you show respect for the questions, viewpoints, and opinions that your fellow students offer in class, although it is in no way expected that you will necessarily agree with them, or with the instructor.

Academic and Personal Integrity and Honesty

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition.

Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of students and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. See the guide on “Academic Ethics for Undergraduates” and the Ethics Board web site (http://ethics.jhu.edu) for more information.

Plagiarism: Violations of the following principles in students’ completed work constitutes plagiarism, which is normally considered a major offense.

1. All written work submitted for credit is accepted as your own work. It may not have been composed, wholly or partially, by another person.
2. I encourage you to incorporate ideas from books and essays in your work as starting points, governing issues, illustrations, and the like, but in each case the source must be cited.
3. The wording of written work is taken as your own. Scholarly work, almost by definition, will include other writers’ phrases, sentences, or paragraphs. All of these—even if its only a
key word or several words--must be presented as quotations and with the source acknowledged. Thus you may not submit work that has been copied, wholly or partially, from a book, article, essay, newspaper, another student’s paper or notebook, internet site, or any other written or printed media source unless you use proper citation.

4. The ideas, arguments, and conclusions of written work are accepted as originating with you, the writer. Written work that paraphrases any written or printed media material without explicit acknowledgement (N.B.: even if the source is cited in a footnote) may not be submitted for credit.

5. Remember that any on-line materials you use to gather information for a paper are also governed by rules about plagiarism, so you need to learn to cite electronic sources as well as printed and other sources.

5. You may correct and revise your writing with the aid of reference books and other sources. You may also discuss your writing with peer writing groups, peer tutors, other professors, or other people more generally. However, you may not submit writing that has been revised substantially by another.

Controversial Subject Matter: Be aware that several of the required readings deal with religious and sexual themes in ways that some may find controversial or even offensive. If you are unwilling to risk this, do not take the class.

Course Grade consists of the following components, weighted roughly as follows:
I/Presentation: See Explanatory Hand-Out: 20% (includes Written Presentation)
II/Writing Assignments:
A. Five Short Essays
   1/Written Class Presentation
   2/Two (2) Reaction Papers 15%
   3/Two (2) Expository Analysis Papers 25%
B. Term Paper (We will go over this assignment in class during Week 2):
   1/Bibliographic Essay 10%: due 8 March
   2/Term Paper 30%

You are encouraged to submit revised versions of the short essays (with potential grade revision), no later than one week after the original is handed back. There will be no quizzes or exams.

If you miss more than two classes, you will need to withdraw.

N.B.: I will determine your final grade. While I will rely heavily on the numerical grades you have received, the final grade will not be solely a question of mathematics: my assessment of your overall performance will affect it.