

Prof Alek Toumi

Fr 481 Culture Clash: French/Franco American Experience

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Office Hours:

Mon 11:00-11:50 am

Wed 2:00- 2:50 pm

and by appointment



Why do the French seem so passionate, cultured, savvy yet odd, strange, even weird to Americans? **Why** do they seem rude, "immoral" and have lately been called *anti-American*? How do the French "*think*", behave and express their thoughts? What makes them different from Americans and how does one explain this "love-hate" relationship? What does it mean to "be French" today and what is *Frenchness*?

This course is designed to answer many of the still unexplained French behaviors and prepare students for France and the Francophone world before traveling as a scholar, on business or simply as a tourist. By defining and examining the habitus of the French, and comparing it with the American one through concepts of the family, educational system, friendship and conversation, relationships and business, we gain better understanding of differences and learn to improve communication in the real world (highly recommended for French teachers, majors in international studies, business, communication and Peace Corps volunteers).

Books

Raymonde Carroll Evidences invisibles.

Rocheftort H W French Toast: An American woman in Paris...

Articles (extraits):

Pierre Bourdieu *Habitus et culture*

Laurent Willy *Les Français.*

We will study 12 modern French films made between 1975 and today, each of them presenting a *real situation* where *cultural conflicts* occur. This is a **Cultural Studies** course in French. Attendance is mandatory. **No absence**, please. If you have to miss, especially during film showing, let me know **ahead** of time.

Work

25 % Class Participation

25 % 1 page weekly, 200 words; typed, double space,
1 in margin, handed in a printed copy; Times New Roman 12,
on time, due the following Monday (after Wed discussion)
Please, do **NOT** email your paper.

25 % Midterm Exam

25 % Final Exam

Attendance is **mandatory!**

Being late or absent will be penalized. Excessive absences could lead to being dropped from the class.

If you have a problem with a class before this class, let me know.

If you have to miss, talk to me ahead of time.

If you decide to remain in this course, you must come to class on Mondays and Wednesdays and stay for the labo, i.e. "film/discussion" 14:00-15:55 pm.

On several Mondays, I may start with the film then have class from 3:00 pm to 3:50 pm.

Please, arrive **on time**. Being late is impolite and disturbs the entire class.

Final Exam: Wed, May 13, 2:45-4:45 pm

Modern French Cinema

Ecole primaire/ lycée/ famille

L'argent de poche / Small change 1976 - 104 min

Diabolo menthe / Peppermint soda 1967

La fracture du myocarde / Cross my heart 1992 - 105 min

Amitié-Relations avec les autres

Un monde sans pitié / Love without pity
1991 - 95 min

La discrète
1990 - 96 m

Un air de famille
1996- 105 min

Un coeur en hiver / A heart in winter
1993- 100 min

Français et “Autres” Français: A cheval entre deux cultures
Pieds-noirs, Beurs, Franco-Américains, Afrique-Francophone

Ridicule ou **Les Liaisons dangereuses** (noblesse vs. peuple français) : les classes
1994-104 min

La vie est un long fleuve tranquille / Life is a long quite river (Pied-noir)
1987 – 89 min

Entre les murs

La haine – Hate (Enfants d’immigrés)
1995 – 91 min

Conclusion

L’auberge espagnole (étudiants internationaux en Espagne)

Le divorce : Les couples Franco-Américains à Paris 2003- 115 mi