

UC Center Program Courses – Fall 2011

PCC 128. **France and the struggles over its Empire 1870-2010**

Prof. Carole Reynaud-Paligot

**Lecture**

Tuesday 2 :00-5 :00 pm

Office Hours:

By appointment

This course approaches the processes of colonization and decolonization both within the French Empire and in the context of current discussions. It will examine the cultural and social context which facilitated colonial domination (the development of the Social Darwinism and the racial thinking), the construction of colonial myths (the colonial epic, the “mise en valeur”) but also the political and cultural resistances to colonial domination. To treat the diverse aspects of this colonial culture, various documents will be analyzed: propaganda texts, comic strips, posters, photos, movies, literary works. **5.0 credits**

**COURSE MATERIALS**

\* Aldrich Robert, *Greater France : A History of Overseas Expansion*, London, Macmillan Press, 1996

\* Articles and book chapters reproduced in the Course Reader.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students are required to do all reading before each weekly session and to attend all guest lectures and sites visits scheduled during the semester. Students are required to complete the weekly readings comprised of secondary sources found in the assigned books, the Course Reader, and directly on the web (with links from the syllabus).

- Weekly Readings and Class Participation (20% of the final grade)
- Exam 1 (20%)
- Midterm (20%).
- Final exam (20%)
- Other exercises (20%)

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**\*PLEASE NOTE : IN WEEK 4, THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 4. THIS CLASS (THE VISIT TO THE LOUVRE) HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5.\***

**Week 1 . Introduction : aim of the course, formal requirements**

**The Birth of The French Colonial Empire**

**Film** : *Brazza ou l'épopée du Congo* de Jean Poirier (1939), 94 mn.

## **Week 2 . Social Darwinism, Racism and Human Zoo**

**Readings** : Aldrich Robert, *Greater France : A History of Overseas Expansion*, London, Macmillan Press, 1996 : chapter 1 et 2.

**Course Reader** : photos p.1

## **Week 3 . Orientalism**

**a) Exam : questions on the courses of weeks 1 and 2**

**b) Orientalism**

**Readings** : Course Reader : Edward W. Said, *Orientalism*, p. 11-32.

Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, chapters 3 and 4.

## **Week 4 : Visit : Musée du Louvre “Orientalism”**

\*Course will meet on Wednesday evening this week for the visit to the Louvre.

## **Week 5 . The “Mise en valeur” and Colonial culture**

**Readings**: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, chapters 5 and 7.

**Course Reader** : Postcards “La force noire”, “la force jaune”, posters : « les bienfaits de la colonisation », « une école indigène », « la mise en valeur forestière ».

CD-Rom Art and Civilizations (Louvre) (in class)

## **Week 6 . Resistance to French Rule, Negritude**

**Readings**: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, chapter 3, p. 111-121 and chap. 6.

**Film** : “Aimé Césaire. Une parole pour le XXIe siècle”, E. Palcy, 1994.

## **Week 7. Midterm Exam**

### **Anticolonialism**

**Course Reader** : André Gide, *Travels in the Congo* (1927), Césaire Aimé, *Discourse on Colonialism*, Monthly Review Press 2000, Comic Strip in *L'Humanité* in *La Question coloniale dans l'Humanité*, Paris, La Dispute, 2005, French Intellectuals protest the Algerian War (September 1960).

## **Week 8**

## **Second War World and Reconstruction at overseas 1945-1958**

**Course Reader** Letters "Tirailleurs Sénégalais" (en anglais) in Myron Echenberg *Colonial Conscripts. The Tirailleurs Sénégalais in French West Africa 1857-1960*, London, James Currey.  
Comic Strip : the first episode of « Mamadou s'en va-t'n guerre » (1939)

**Film** : *Tasuma la Feu*, Kollo Daniel SANOU, Burkina Faso, 2003.

### **Week 9 .**

#### **The Birth of the Fourth Republic and the French Union**

**Readings**: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, chapter 8, p. 266-306.

**Film** : *La Question*, Laurent HEYNEMANN, anglais, 1977, 112 min.

### **Week 10 .**

**Visit** : « les collections africaines du Musée du quai Branly »

### **Week 11 . Post-Colonial Era (1)**

**Readings**: Aldrich Robert, *Greater France...*, Epilogue : After the Empire

**Film** : *Bamako* Abderrahmane SISSAKO. Français/bambara, st anglais, 2006, 118 min.

### **Week 12 Post-Colonial Era (2)**

**Course Reader** : , « Au Congo : la chasse au blancs », « Mme Lumumba redevient africaine et sauvage », *Paris-Match*, juillet 1960 in Eric Deroo, *L'Illusion coloniale*, Paris, Tallandier, 2005, Free Trade and Fair Trade

### **Week 13 . Final Exam**