HS/PO/SO 340 TRANSATLANTIC IDENTITIES: A HISTORY OF UNIVERSALISM AND COMMUNITY IN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES
IES Abroad Paris BIA

DESCRIPTION:
This course examines the historical impact of the idea of universalism and its role in shaping French and American societies in the late modern era. Beginning with the notion of universal rights and the modern understanding of the citizen as articulated in the political philosophy of the Enlightenment and in the spirit of the American and French revolutions, we will trace the development of the relationship between individual, community and society on both sides of the Atlantic throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Reading a combination of original documents and academic works, we will address the systematic political and historical shortcomings of the universalist ideal, such as the practice of slavery and numerous forms of discrimination and exclusion, and elucidate how this ideal played a role both in sustaining and in abolishing injustice. We will also explore various challenges to universalism, from transcendentalism in 19th century New England to existentialism and negritude in mid-20th century Paris, which modified and sometimes diminished its importance, leading up to the demographical and intellectual transformations of the recent post-colonial past. Whereas the 19th and early 20th century saw a gradual expansion of the universal and a struggle for inclusion, this fight subsequently partially gave way to a search for multiplicity and communal identities, a development that in many ways highlighted the historical and political differences between France and the United States. Finally, we will address the meaning and relevance of the universalist ideal today. Throughout the course, the shared history of France and the United States will be explored both as a gradual divergence along the Atlantic divide and as a series of frequent philosophical and political exchanges. Although structured as a comparative study of France and the United States, the syllabus will often place a stronger emphasis on events and developments relating to French history, which will be less familiar to American students.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

ADDITIONAL COST: None

PREREQUISITES: No prerequisite.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Lectures and class discussions.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Course participation – 10%
- Midterm Exam – 30%
- Final Exam – 30%
- Research Paper 1 – 15%
- Research Paper 2 – 15%

Course Participation
Each class will be structured around a separate topic, which will be addressed with the help of one or more texts posted on Moodle beforehand. Students will be expected to prepare for class by reading and reflecting upon the assigned texts and to participate in class discussions, showing that they have understood and critically evaluated the authors’ arguments. Students should expect to be called on if they do not actively participate in class.

Midterm and Final Exams
The midterm and final exams will consist in a series of short essay questions with the dual purpose of testing students’ knowledge of facts and evaluating their ability to critically analyze and contextualize historical events and philosophical trends. The final exam is mostly non-cumulative and focuses on material covered in the second half of the semester. Students should however also be able to integrate ideas discussed in the first half of the semester in their answers on the final.

Research Paper
Students will write two short research papers, which are due on dates specified in the calendar below. Each paper should be 8–10 pages long and must develop a coherent argument with the support of textual sources to be cited according to MLA or Chicago standards. Students will be required to schedule a time to discuss their topic with the instructor before writing each paper.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Outline the shared philosophical and political heritage of France and the United States and major interactions between the two countries.
- Understand and analyze the historical impact of the notion of universalism and its development in France and the United States in modern times.
- Articulate some of the main differences in the relationship between individual, society and community in France and the United States in a historical context.
- Relate the development of key concepts to historical events.
- Reflect on their own presuppositions about French and European society based on shared transatlantic history.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad Paris BIA courses, including course-related trips. Failure to adhere to these rules will negatively impact your final grade.

IES Abroad Paris BIA allows a number of absences with no impact on your final grade as follows:
- 1 absence allowed for courses meeting once a week.
- 2 absences allowed for courses meeting twice a week.

If you miss class in excess of what is outlined above, your grade will be lowered one letter grade point for each additional absence, for example A to A-.

Any exams, tests, presentations, quizzes or other work missed due to course absences will be given a grade of zero and can only be rescheduled in the case of a documented medical emergency. You must submit all documentation for medical absences to the academic office within 2 days of your return to class.

Excessive absences in any class will result in a final grade of F in the following cases:
- 3 absences in a course meeting once a week
- 6 absences in a course meeting twice a week

Punctuality is very important in all IES Abroad Paris BIA courses and being tardy to class is disruptive for the faculty members as well as your fellow classmates.
You cannot be more than 15 minutes late to class. 
Being more than 15 minutes late will count as an absence.
Arriving late, less than 15 minutes, to class 3 times will count as an absence.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen |
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<th>Session</th>
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Karl Marx, *From The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon*. |
| 14      | Midterm Exam | |
Olympe de Gouges, “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen” |
Declaration on the Right to Insubordination in the War in Algeria: The Manifesto of the 121 |
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<th>Session 22</th>
<th>Civil Rights and Anti-Colonialism</th>
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<td>From Colonialism to Immigration</td>
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<td>Session 24</td>
<td>Francophonie: A New Universalism?</td>
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**FIELD STUDIES:**  
Guided visit TBA.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**  
Required readings for each class are listed in the calendar above.

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**  
Additional recommended readings will be posted on Moodle.