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Title: Post-war France: Modernity and Crisis, 1944-1981.
Status: Definitive
Code: **7105MHIST** (127251)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021
Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Thomas Beaumont	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ7 **Credit Value:** 30 **Total Delivered Hours:** 33
Total Learning Hours: 300 **Private Study:** 267

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Seminar	33

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	AS1	2,500 word analysis of a primary or secondary source	40	
Essay	AS2	5,500 word essay	60	

Aims

*Familiarise students with key themes and concepts in this period of historical study
Develop analytical skills to a high-level
Enhance research skills to a high-level*

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Develop high level knowledge and understanding of the key political and social aspects of this period in modern French history
- 2 Critically analyse the historiography of the period
- 3 Evaluate historical debates on a range of topics in this period of modern French history

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Source Analysis	1	2	
Essay	1	2	3

Outline Syllabus

With the ending of the Second World War, France was liberated from the immediate traumas of defeat and occupation. But with victory in 1945, the country was confronted with a new set of challenges. With much of its national infrastructure in ruins, many towns and cities ravaged, and an economy suffering from years of exploitation by the Germans, the task of reconstruction was immense. The physical damage of war was not all, however. After more than four years of occupation, and the social tensions and divisions wrought by this experience, it was not just the economy but equally the political body, indeed the nation as a whole, which required renewal. In the years immediately following the liberation, French political elites grappled with the challenges of reconstructing France. Looking back from the perspective of the 1980s, French commentators and academics heralded the success of these efforts. Noting how the liberation had inaugurated a new era of unprecedented economic growth and consumer wealth, undergirded by a robust welfare state, which lasted until the global economic crisis which followed in the wake of the 'oil shock' of the mid-1970s, historians adopted the label of the 'thirty glorious years' to refer to this period in post-war French history. These years witnessed profound transformations in French politics and society which many experienced as a liberating force, yet they also led to growing levels of social marginalisation, poverty and alienation. What is more, through these years of ever-growing prosperity for many of its citizens, France fought and lost two brutal colonial wars in Indochina and Algeria, marking the end of the country's status as a major colonial empire.

Learning Activities

Seminars

Notes

This module engages students with the key themes and debates which marked this tumultuous period in modern French history, stretching roughly from the end of the Second World War through to the election of François Mitterand as President in 1981.