

WARS AND REVOLUTION IN FRANCE

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Course Overview:

A summer, 2022, Marist High School historical tour of France. We will survey key events and people, as well as relevant World War I, World War II and French Revolution locations, that shaped modern France and the world. We will visit Verdun (World War I battle), Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (World War I), Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises (home of Charles de Gaulle), Normandy beaches (World War II), Palace of Versailles (including *jeu de paume*, where the revolution began with the Tennis Court Oath); Père LaChaise cemetery (including *Mur des Fédérés*, where the Paris Commune of 1871 ended); Musée d'Orsay (impressionist art); Paris's sewers (a landmark in 19th century urban planning); the *Comédie Française* (where the playwright Molière performed); and other sights of Paris.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Identify and understand the significance of the French Revolution, World War I and World War II in shaping modern France, Europe and liberal values beyond Europe, especially extended visits to significant historical locations at Normandy, Paris, Verdun and Versailles.
2. Apply knowledge and experience to foster personal growth and better appreciate the diverse social world in which we live. Analyze impact of the French Revolution, World War I and World War II in the liberal ideas, destruction, skepticism and international relations that emerged from these.
3. By visit to locations, appreciate the pre-revolutionary society and world which the French Revolution challenged (Versailles); conventional, defensive and destructive tactics of World War I (Verdun battlefield and cemeteries; American cemetery at Meuse-Argonne) and their destruction, as shaping France's response to WWI as well as a warning to today; offensive tactics of World War II and Franco-American cooperation (Normandy); Charles de Gaulle's role in shaping modern France (visit to home and grave at Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises); understand the cultural and religious heritage of France (Comédie-Française theater; Louvre; Musée d'Orsay; Therese of Lisieux); and appreciate diversity through experiencing another culture.
4. Apply knowledge and skills to contemporary issues, including international relations, consequences of war, liberalism and individualism, diversity in modern French society.

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Texts:

Alistair Horne, *The Price of Glory: Verdun 1916*.

John P. McKay, et al., *A History of Western Society Since 1300*, 12th ed. Print or electronic.

Documents (Tennis Court Oath, Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, Karl Marx's *Civil War in France*, de Gaulle's *Memoirs*).

Video Resources:

La Révolution Française: Les Années Lumières and *La Révolution Française: Les Années Terribles* (1989) (French production) in French, with English subtitles (four hours).

Sister Wendy's Story of Painting: Age of Revolution, Impressionism (30 minutes each).

Saving Private Ryan (optional).

Grade:

Your grade will be determined by the following:

- Viewing quiz on four videos (pre-departure)
- Reading quiz on *The Price of Glory* (pre-departure)
- Participation in group activities, including simulations activities of World War II soldiers and of French society at the time of the French Revolution
- Journal during the trip
- Post-trip essay

College Now Credit: Course will receive credit per Lane Community College's College Now program.

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Pre-Departure Activities:

Week of June 20 (before departure): Lesson (in person or online) on outbreak of World War I; trench warfare; Verdun as a battle without military strategy (intended to demoralize French army and society rather than any strategic objective).

Complete viewing questions for videos on French Revolution and painting videos.

Reading quiz on *The Price of Glory*.

Activities in France (dates subject to change):

June 24: Arrival in Paris; possible visit to Compiègne (site of World War I and World War II surrenders) en route to Verdun.

June 25: Visit to Colombey-les-deux-Églises; pre-visit discussion of Charles de Gaulle's role in World War I (including capture at Verdun), World War II and the Fifth Republic.

June 26: Tour of Verdun battlefield and Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery; pre-visit discussion of American role in World War I.

June 27: Visit to *Historial de la Grande Guerre* Museum, Péronne

June 28: Visit to *Mémorial D-Day* Museum, Caen, and Sainte-Mère-Église

June 29: Visit to Arromanches (artificial harbor), airborne museum, D-Day beaches
"Soldiers' Stories" participatory activity

June 30: Palace of Versailles and Jeu-de-Paume
"Seize the Chateau" participatory activity; Tennis Court Oath and Declaration of Rights of Man as touchstones of the moderate phase of the revolution

July 1-3: Paris, including impressionist *Musée d'Orsay*; *Musée de l'Armée* and *Historial Charles de Gaulle* at Hôtel des Invalides; Pere LaChaise Cemetery (including memorials to the Paris Commune of 1871) (discussion of Marx's interpretation of the commune as pure class warfare, and Lenin's interpretation of Marx)

July 3: Optional excursion to Lille (birthplace of Charles de Gaulle), depending on time and interest.

July 4: Complete trip journal/notebook

Post-trip assignment:

July 22: Reflection essay due