

<b>Title of the course:</b>	Contemporary France		
<b>Course ID:</b>	VE-NPT031-NT		
<b>Level of education:</b>	Erasmus	<b>Academic semester:</b>	Optional
<b>Professor's name:</b>	Eszter Petronella SOÓS	<b>Academic title:</b> senior lecturer	
<b>Hours per semester:</b>	26	<b>Credits:</b>	4
<b>Exam:</b>	Continuous assessment	<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	English proficiency

### Aims of the course

The aim of the course is to discuss and understand the political system (institutions, party system, politics) of contemporary France.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to navigate and understand the most important phenomena related to French political life.

Students will also regularly follow current affairs and digest the occasional academic readings for context (as the situation requires).

### Course outline

All classes will be divided into two main parts: 1. a discussion and contextual analysis of current affairs 2. a frontal lecture (or a flipped-class discussion).

Lectures will cover:

- The French concept of the Republic.
- Gaullism and the origins of the Fifth Republic.
- The 1958 Constitution, its functioning and the current institutional debates.
- The importance of presidential politics.
- The party system and ideological landscape of France.
- Political cleavages and electoral behavior.

### Practical works

Class discussion.

### Requirements and assessment

- Presence in class is needed due to the continuous assessment regime
- Preparation for classes (current affairs, readings)
- Activity and participation in class debates

### Grades:

Continuous assessment based on regular reading, preparedness and class activity.

### Readings

Carcassone, Guy and Marc Guillaume (2022): *La constitution*. Éditions du Seuil.  
Academic readings with regards to context will be distributed as the situation requires.