University of California, San Diego
Political Science 192 Senior Seminar (1 Credit)

France in Crisis? Parties and Elections 2007

Spring, 2007
Wed: 2:00-4:00 pm
Rm: SSB-333

Prof. William M. Chandler
SSB 385/East 21734
Office: Wed. 11-12:00
whandler@ucsd.edu

General:
This senior seminar examines French politics from the perspective of parties and elections, with particular focus on the current Presidential election of 2007 and recent political developments. It includes analysis of political institutions, ideological traditions, party system change, organized interests and leadership. External relations and issues of European integration constitute additional focal points for our understanding of the crisis in French politics. The seminar will meet 4 times: twice in April and twice in May.

Evaluation:
You may choose a topic that relates to the general themes of this seminar. Research paper is due on first day of finals week at end of quarter.

Recommended Basic Readings (on Reserve):
Anne Stevens, Government and Politics of France, 3rd edition (Palgrave, 2005)

Seminar #1: 4 April 2007

Institutional and Political Contexts of the Fifth Republic

The Economist, “The Irresistible Rise of Ségolène Royal”, April 2006

Readings:
Stevens, Chapters 2-3, 7
Elgie, “The Political Executive”, in Cole, chapter 5
Knapp, “Prometheus (Re)bound...Check on Executive Power” in Cole, chap 6

Elgie and Machin, "France: The Limits of Prime-Ministerial Government in a Semi-Presidential System".
Frears, "The French Parliament: Loyal Workhorse, Poor Watchdog".

**Ideological Divisions and Party Politics**

a) Francoc's "political families": Cleavage Bases and Party System,
b) Factionalism within Parties
d) Mass Mobilization and Political Protest

**Readings:**
Stevens, Chap 8,
Haegel "Parties and organizations" in Cole, chapter 2 ...
Evans and Mayer, "Electorates", in Cole, chap 3.
Mayer, Nonna, "Les hauts et les bas du vote Le Pen", Tables 1,2,3, 8, 9 (506-8, 517-8).
Le Galès, "Réélection de Jacques Chirac…", Tables, pp. 12, 13, 17, 20, 23 and 30.

**Seminar # 2: 11 April 2007**

**Recent Elections: 2002 to 2007**

**Readings:**
Migué, "...", WEP, 2003
Stevens, Chaps 5 and 9
Safran, Chapter 4

**Seminar # 3: 2 May 2007**

**Parties, Candidates and Issues in the 2007 Campaign**

First ballot results
What were the determining factors?
   Economic Issues?
   Social Issues?
   Identity, Immigration and Integration as Issues?
   European Issues?

**Readings:**
Stevens, pp. 269-72
France in Europe and the World?

Foreign Policy, Supranationality and Multi-polarity:

Readings:
Chandler, "..."
Drake, "France: An EU Founder Member Cut Down to Size?", in JEF, March 2006, pp...

Optional:
Smith, "The Europeanisation of the French State" in Cole, Chapter 7,

Public Opinion Trends before the First Ballot

Seminar IV: 23 May 2007
Interpreting the Presidential Results of 6 May 2007

What happened between the two Ballots?
The Winner and the Loser: Second Ballot Results and What they mean?


Comparative Perspectives:
Evaluating French Democracy in the Fifth Republic and within the European Union,
French Presidentialism compared to American Presidentialism?

Readings:
Stevens, Chap 11.
The Economist, "France faces the future", 1 April 2006.

**********

Pol Sci. 192 Reserve Readings, Spring 2007
Anne Stevens, Government and Politics of France, 3rd edition (Palgrave, 2005)
Cole, et al., eds., Developments in French Politics 3 (Palgrave 2005)