

Module title: Picturing a Nation: France and its Image from Marianne to #JesuisCharlie

Module code: COM5042

Credit value: 15

Level: 5

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module examines how images form the foundation of our understanding of French culture, and of how France understands itself. Students will be introduced to the methodology of visual studies and will be applying it to images of historical and cultural relevance to the French-speaking world, ranging from Marianne as the personification of 'national' values, through the representation of the colonies in advertising, to the tradition of satire embodied in the magazine 'Charlie Hebdo'. Through these visual analyses, students will consider concepts such as cliché, symbol, and allegory, and reflect on questions of nationhood and cultural identity.

Module Aims

1. Discover key components of French culture and major cultural symbols of recent French history.
2. Develop a range of tools for humanities students for dealing with visual sources and relating them to broader historical and cultural issues.
3. Encourage students to adopt broader, more diverse perspectives on the French-speaking world.

Learning Outcomes

Academic Content:

A1 Knowledge of French national symbols and their historical evolution since the French Revolution.

A2 Theories and methods of visual studies, and how they relate to the above.

Disciplinary Skills – able to:

B1 Communicate arguments founded in visual analysis through extended writing.

B2 Develop a critical approach to cultural phenomena and visual source material, and to relevant critical and theoretical perspectives.

B3 Have the confidence to develop an informed and independent position on matters of culture.

Attributes:

C1 Consider the value of an international and diverse perspective on culture studies.

C2 Connect information and ideas within the fields of Modern Languages and Cultures.

C3 Take a critical view on representations of national identity and their effect on society.

Activity Hours

Activity Type	Time spent (hours)
Lecture	11
Seminar	11
Guided independent study	128
Total	150

Indicative Reading List

- Agulhon, Maurice. 2001a. Les métamorphoses de Marianne: l'imagerie et la symbolique républicaines de 1914 à nos jours. Paris: Flammarion.
- 2001b. Marianne au combat: l'imagerie et la symbolique républicaines de 1789 à 1880. Paris: Flammarion.
- 2001c. Marianne au pouvoir: l'imagerie et la symbolique républicaines de 1880 à 1914. Paris: Flammarion.
- Barthes, Roland. 2014. Mythologies. Paris: Éd. du Seuil.
- Bony, Catherine, Bibliothèque Abbé Grégoire (Blois), et Rendez-vous de l'histoire de Blois. 2007. Quand le crayon attaque: images satiriques et opinion publique en France, 1814-1918 : [exposition, Blois, Bibliothèque Abbé Grégoire, 21 septembre-10 novembre 2007. Paris: Éd. Autrement.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 2015. La distinction: critique sociale du jugement. Paris: Ed. de Minuit.
- Bru, Sascha. 2012. Regarding the popular: modernism, the avant-garde, and high and low culture. Berlin; Boston: De Gruyter.
- Buffier, Dominique, et Pascal Galinier, éd. 2015. Qui est vraiment Charlie? ces 21 jours qui ébranlèrent les lecteurs du Monde. Paris: Éditions François Bourin : Le Monde.
- Debray, Régis. 2007. Vie et mort de l'image: Une histoire du regard en Occident. Paris: Gallimard.
- Doizy, Guillaume, Jacky Houdré, et Pierre Bonte. 2008. Marianne dans tous ses états : la République en caricature de Daumier à Plantu. Paris: Alternatives.
- Elizabeth Vlossak. 2010. Marianne or Germania?: Nationalizing Women in Alsace, 1870-1946. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Forsdick, Charles, et David Murphy. 2009. Postcolonial Thought in the French-Speaking World. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5949/UPO9781846319808>.
- Germain, Félix F, Silyane Larcher, et T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting. 2018. Black French Women and the Struggle for Equality, 1848-2016.
- Golan, Romy. 1995. Modernity and Nostalgia: Art and Politics in France between the Wars. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Hargrove, June Ellen, Neil McWilliam, et National Gallery of Art (Förenta staterna). 2005. Nationalism and French Visual Culture, 1870-1914. Washington: National Gallery of Art.
- Hébert, Oriane, et Ludivine Pechoux. 2017. Gaulois : images, usages & stéréotypes. Actes du colloque de Clermont-Ferrand ."Quand l'usage fait l'image : les Gaulois, de la manipulation historique à l'archéotype. Nouvelle enquête historiographique" 18-19 septembre 2014. Autons: Editions Mergoil.
- Laurent, Jeanne. 1984. Arts & pouvoirs en France de 1793 à 1981: histoire d'une démission artistique. Saint-Etienne: Université de Saint-Etienne, Centre interdisciplinaire d'études et de recherches sur l'expression contemporaine.
- McGonagle, Joseph. 2017. Representing Ethnicity in Contemporary French Visual Culture.
- Modern French visual theory: a critical reader. 2013. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Pascal Blanchard, et Isabelle Veyrat-Masson. 2008. Les guerres de mémoires: la France et son histoire, enjeux politiques, controverses historiques, stratégies médiatiques / sous la direction

de Pascal Blanchard et Isabelle Veyrat-Masson; préface de Benjamin Stora. Cahiers libres. Paris: Découverte.

- Passini. 2012. La fabrique de l'art national. Le nationalisme et les origines de l'art en France et en Allemagne (1870-1933). Paris: MSH Paris.
- Rancière, Jacques. 2013. Le destin des images. Paris: La Fabrique éditions.
- 2014. Le partage du sensible: esthétique et politique. Paris: La Fabrique éd.
- Scott, Clive. 2007. Street photography: from Atget to Cartier-Bresson. London; New York; New York: I.B. Tauris; In the United States distributed by Palgrave Macmillan.
- Vestberg, Nina Lager. 2005. « Photography as Cultural Memory: Imag(in)Ing France in the 1950s ». *Journal of Romance Studies* 5 (2): 75-90. <https://doi.org/10.3167/147335305780960405>.
- Wieviorka, Olivier. 2013. La mémoire désunie: le souvenir politique des années sombres de la Libération à nos jours. Paris: Seuil.