Six of the questions below will appear on the exam paper. You will need to answer two of them, writing a 30-35-minute essay on each. [Each is worth 35% of your final-exam grade.] Your essays should answer the question directly, and should use specific examples and evidence to support your arguments. Remember to draw on the readings as well as on the lectures!! As a rough guide, I would expect each of your answers to be at least five paragraphs long. (Introduction and thesis statement; three examples; conclusion). DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL FROM YOUR PAPERS IN THE EXAM.

In addition, the exam will include twelve images or text passages, from which you should pick five to analyze in a substantial paragraph. In doing so, you should quickly situate the image or text in its context (when, where, and by whom was it produced? For what purpose?) and then discuss its significance. Remember to pay attention to the specific language and/or imagery of the example; that is, make sure your comment considers not just what the excerpt says but how it says it. Each commentary will count 6% of your grade on the final exam.

Essay Questions:
1. When did France become “modern”? (In answering this, you will of course need to explain what you understand by “modern.”)
2. Which played a greater role in shaping modern French history: the 1789 Revolution or the First World War?
3. Did the Napoleonic Civil Code help to abolish privilege or serve to recreate it?
4. How did the post-revolutionary definition of gender identities relate to ideas about social class and social structure?
5. In the mid-to-late nineteenth century, the sewers of Paris became an international tourist attraction. Why might that have been the case?
6. What (if any) long-term effects did the Dreyfus Affair have on French society and culture?
7. In what ways are the categories of “resistance” and “collaboration” inadequate for understanding the history of France during the Second World War?
8. Compare and contrast May 1968 with the 1848 Revolution and/or the 1871 Commune.
9. In what ways have soldiers and veterans been important to the peacetime history of France since 1789?
10. How do you account for the rise of the Extreme Right (that is, LePen’s Front National) over the past fifty years?
11. What is meant when French republicanism is described as “universalist” in its inspiration and aspirations? What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of that universalism?
12. “Those who do not study the past are doomed to repeat it”—Does this oft-repeated sentiment help us understand French history? Why or why not?