



Weekend Courses 2023-24

France under the Occupation

Start date: 17 November 2023 **End date:** 19 November 2023

Venue: Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor: Dr Seán Lang **Course Code:** 2324NRX008

Tutor biography

Dr Seán Lang is a Senior Lecturer in History at Anglia Ruskin University, where he specialises in modern European history and the history of the British Empire. He has taught widely at school, sixth form and university level and is a regular broadcaster on radio and television.

He has published on British medical work in British India and textbooks on *Parliamentary Reform, 1785-1928*, *Nazi Foreign Policy, 1933-1939* and *Why the First World War Broke Out* as well as four history titles in the popular 'For Dummies' series, including *The First World War for Dummies*. He has recently published on young people's writings at the end of the First World War and contributed a chapter to *The Cambridge Companion to Winston Churchill*.

He has written extensively for the theatre and has had work performed in Cambridge, London, Oxford, Norwich, Canada, and at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Dr Lang is a former Honorary Secretary of the Historical Association and has worked both with government and with the Council of Europe on developments in school history.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 – 22:00 The collapse of France, 1806-1940**
- 22:00 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

- 07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)
- 09:00 – 10:30 Pétain – marshal, man and myth**
- 10:30 Coffee
- 11:00 – 12:30 Vichy and the Holocaust**
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 16:00 Free time
- 16:00 Tea
- 16:30 – 18:00 De Gaulle and the fighting French**
- 18:00 – 18:30 Free time
- 18:30 Dinner
- 20:00 – 21:30 The occupation filmed, remembered and recaptured**
- 21:30 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

- 07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)
- 09:00 – 10:30 Resistance and resisters**
- 10:30 Coffee
- 11:00 – 12:30 Liberation and retribution**
- 12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course will allow you to:

- understand the events of the French Occupation in their historical context
- engage with the political and moral issues facing the French in the Occupation period
- understand the impact of the Occupation on the subsequent political, social and cultural history of France and of Europe

Summary of content:

- Franco-German rivalry and the events of 1940
- The Vichy Regime and the role of Marshal Petain
- Life in Occupied France and the fate of France's Jews
- Collaboration and Resistance
- The political and military role of General de Gaulle
- The Liberation and its aftermath

Presentation of the course:

There are no pre-requisites of knowledge or reading, though you may get more out of the course if you are able to look at some of the recommended reading in advance. The course will be taught through a series of illustrated lectures, with time for questions and discussion. The Saturday evening session will be based on extracts from feature and documentary films about the period.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, you should be able to:

- discuss the events and issues relating to the French experience in the Second World War with confidence and understanding
- appreciate the influence the Occupation has had on French culture and sense of national identity
- show an understanding of the practical and moral dilemmas posed by the nature of wartime occupation
- understand the place of the French Occupation within the wider history of the Holocaust

Reading and resources list

There are no compulsory readings for this course. However, you may find the below recommended reading list of interest to supplement your course.

Cobb, M, *The Resistance: the French Fight Against the Nazis*, London: Pocket Books (2009)

Gildea, R, *Marianne in Chains: in Search of the German Occupation of France, 1940-45*, London: Picador (2002)

Jackson, J, *France: the Dark Years, 1940-1944*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (2001)

Marrus, M, and Paxton, R O, *Vichy France and the Jews*, 2nd edition, Stanford: Stanford University Press (2019)

Paxton, R O *Vichy France, 1940-1944: Old Guard and New Order, 1940-1944*, New York: Columbia University Press (2001)

Pike, *Silent Village: Life and Death in Occupied France*, London: The History Press (2021)

Vinen, R, *The Unfree French: Life under Occupation*, London: Penguin (2007)

Other supplementary reading

Jackson, J, *France on Trial: the Case of Marshal Pétain*, London: Allen Lane (2023)

Kedward, H R, *Occupied France: Collaboration and Resistance*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (1985)

Moorehead, C, *Village of Secrets: Defying the Nazis in Occupied France*, London: Vintage (2015)

Nemirovsky, I, and Smith, S, *Suite Française*, London: Vintage (2007)

Paxton, R O, *Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order, 1940-44*, New York: Knopf (2015)

Sweets, J F, *Choices in Vichy France: the French Under Nazi Occupation*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (1994)

Online resources:

A database of individuals in the story of wartime France: <https://ww2db.com/country/France>

A guide to sites of the Occupation in Paris: <https://www.frommers.com/slideshows/848347-places-where-you-can-still-see-evidence-of-the-nazi-occupation-of-paris>

Note: Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) students are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current ICE course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

(Information correct as of 15 May 2023)