

RL 16301
EN 29101
June 30 – August 6
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Boston's French Connection
Summer 2009
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:15-9:15 p.m., Devlin 221
Office: Lyons 303C, (617) 552-3208

A crossroads where Americans and French have met since the seventeenth century, Boston has served as common ground, battlefield and laboratory. In today's Boston, street designs, works of art, and cultural and commercial institutions bear witness to the continuing relationship between Boston and France. We will explore the development of Boston's French connections through an examination of newspaper articles, diaries, letters, essays, paintings, musical compositions, architectural works and historic sites.

Boston's French Connection is designed for students who wish to deepen their knowledge of France's and Boston's history by examining texts which illustrate those junctures where both cultures converge and by considering issues of cultural difference and commonality.

We will discuss the following topics: early French explorers, French Huguenots and Boston's Puritans, the Acadian experience, the American and French Revolutions, French Influences on Boston's Catholics and Unitarian Transcendentalists, French influences on Boston's musicians, painters, sculptors, architects politicians and writers, and contributions of the different Francophone peoples in Boston.

Composition of the grade for the course:

25% Class discussion

25% Essay: A critical introduction to the document
Narrative of a French Protestant Refugee in Boston

25% Article: Each student will write an article on one of Boston's French connections.

25% Final Examination

Texts:

Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, I*

Beauvoir, *America Day by Day*

Jouve, *Paris: Birthplace of the U.S.A.*

Atwood, *Boston's French Secrets*

Selected texts distributed in class

Films:

Black Robe

Queen Margot

John Adams

Jefferson in Paris

Glory

[Selections from these films will be shown in class. All the films are available on closed reserve at the O'Neill Media Center.]

1. Tuesday, June 30
 - **Introduction and Overview**
 - New France**
 - Champlain, *The Voyages and Explorations of Samuel de Champlain*, passages to be distributed in class
 - *Black Robe*

2. Thursday, July 2
 - Walking Tour

3. Tuesday, July 7
 - **New France and New England**
 - Champlain, *The Voyages and Explorations of Samuel de Champlain*, discussion
 - Historical perspective: La Réforme
 - Introduction to *Narrative of a French Protestant Refugee in Boston* [This text will be distributed in class.]
 - *Queen Margot*

4. Thursday, July 9
 - **New France and New England**
 - Discussion of *Narrative of a French Protestant*
 - Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, I* Volume I, Introduction, pp.3-16; Chapter II, pp. 26-45
 - Beauvoir, *America Day by Day* Preface, pp.xvii-xviii "January," pp. 3-25 "April," pp. 279-290, 301-307

5. Tuesday, July 14
 - **New France and New England**
 - The Acadian Experience, documents to be distributed in class
 - Longfellow, *Evangeline*, selected passages to be distributed in class

6. Thursday, July 16
 - Workshop at O'Neill**
 - Shari Grove, Guest Presenter**
 - Researching Boston's French Connections
 - Puritans and Huguenots**
 - Examination of documents
 - We will meet in O'Neill 307 for this class.

7. Tuesday, July 21
- The American Revolution and the French Revolution**
 Jouve, *Paris: Birthplace of the U.S.A.*
 Atwood, *Boston's French Secrets*
 Abbé Robin, *New Travels Through North America*, selected passages to be distributed in class
- *John Adams*
 - *Jefferson in Paris*
 - Article topic
 - Critical Introduction due
8. Thursday, July 23
- French Influences on Boston's Catholics and Unitarian Transcendentalists I**
Margaret Flagg, Guest Presenter
9. Tuesday, July 28
- French Influences on Boston's Catholics and Unitarian Transcendentalists II**
Margaret Flagg, Guest Presenter
 The following texts will be distributed examined in class.
 "The Naturals"
 Whitehill, *A Memorial to Bishop Cheverus*
 Baudelaire, "Correspondences"
 O'Connor, *Bibles, Brahmins and Bosses*, selected passages
 Hawthorne, *The Blithedale Romance*, selected passages
10. Thursday, July 30
- The Civil War and French Reactions to Race Relations in the United States**
- Discussion of readings
 - Tocqueville, Volume I, Chapter XVIII
 - Beauvoir, "February," pp. 31-38
 - "April," pp.231-253, 272-277
 - Materials on the life and work of Saint Gaudens to be presented in class
 - *Glory*
11. Tuesday, August 4
- Boston's French Musical Connections**
Cynthia Bravo, Guest Presenter
12. Thursday, August 6
- Presentation of articles
 - Article due
 - Final Examination