

2012

March
11-18

WORLD WAR II SPRING SESSION



THE NORMANDY region.

An historical and cultural heritage

Thanks to their various landscapes (seaside resorts, green countryside, medieval architecture), the beauty and the resources of both the regions have attracted many artists throughout the years. Considered as the cradle of Impressionism, the Normandy region is today a famous destination for tourists.

City of art and history, Rouen is ideally located between Paris and the Channel coasts and has a rich heritage. Its typical neighborhoods offer a charming perspective of the French way of life.

THE UNIVERSITY of Rouen.

A campus opened to the world

Training, innovating, professionalizing:

The University of Rouen welcomes some 25,000 students including 2,500 international students. Around 50 different qualifications are offered in literary, scientific, technological and professionalization fields. They are all part of the European process of harmonization in higher education (LMD).

The University wishes to reinforce its opening to the world and develop its international profile. Creating and developing cultural and linguistic stays are part of a concerted effort to welcome more and more international visitors.

WW2 : History, Art and Memory

The course will be divided into three complementary sections with the aim of exploring in an original manner a historical moment, the Second World War, that is crucial for the understanding of the contemporary world.

The first part of the course will be devoted to the study of Franco-American relations during the war, providing us the opportunity to revisit well-known political and military events from the perspective of American press coverage. Beyond a sequential narrative of events, a systematic study of contemporary press coverage enables us to appreciate the magnitude of the resulting shifts in American public opinion. Indeed attitudes toward France changed significantly during the war years. In 1940, many experienced its tragic "fall" as a real trauma; after the war, their image of France would never be the same. Meanwhile, their perception of themselves and of their world status had also become radically different.

The second part of the course will examine the war through a rather less-well known lens. Indeed, outside specialist circles in Britain, few people know about the official War Artists' scheme launched in 1939 by Sir Kenneth Clark (then Director of the National Gallery, London), who believed that artists had more to say on what they saw than photographers. Possibly four thousand works resulted from it by 1945. Most are now dispersed in public collections all over the UK - but national museums like the Tate and the Imperial War Museum had right of first refusal, and their works by Henry Moore, Paul Nash and other prominent British artists who are less well known outside the UK are occasionally displayed, usually in connection with special exhibitions on the Second World War. Fortunately, they are widely available as high-resolution images on their websites, and a fascinating narrative of the war can be reconstructed from them - both on the Home Front and on distant theatres of operation overseas.

The third and final part of the course will approach the memory of the Second World War through films, both those created as instruments of propaganda during the war itself as well as the considerable number produced in Europe and the United States in the war's aftermath that have played a crucial role in shaping our memory of this event, from 1945 to the present day.

Antoine Capet, Pascal Dupuy, Yves-Marie Péréon
University of Rouen

Program

- Courses will be taught in English by university specialists.
- Excursions : Caen Memorial, D-Day beaches, Rouen in 1944
- Film-conferences.
- A « jazz musical-conference » Jazz during WW2
This concert conference in English will explore the evolution from the black roots to the birth of the be-bop style. It will show how this music brought dance, rhythm and happiness to the French People

Fees

1500 €* - 2000 \$ USD

housing, food, excursions included

1200€* - 1650 \$ USD: Lunches and excursions only

* Price may vary depending on the decision of the administration

Open to everyone with an intermediate level of english

Credits: 3 Credits

Contacts

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WW2



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