



516:280:01 Intro Topics: France, Africa, and the Caribbean
Marker T/Th 11:10 – 12:20

Today there are some three hundred million people who speak French around the world, even though the population of European France is only 65 million. This is the result of four hundred years of French empire-building and colonial rule around the world. In this course, we will focus on the complex web of French relations with Africa and the Caribbean, where French activity overseas started earliest and where French influence lasted longest. Indeed, close to half of the world's French-speaking population today lives in Africa, and there are parts of the Greater Caribbean that are still completely integrated parts of France, just like Hawaii and Alaska are parts of the United States. This course will explore tensions between the development of European France's unique political culture of revolutionary republicanism, individual and social rights, and secularism on the one hand, and the history of imperial expansion, slavery, racism, and colonial violence in the French Afro-Atlantic World on the other. Although the core of the course will examine the colonial period, we will also consider the legacies of empire since the 1960s and the relationships between France, Africa, and the Caribbean today.

GEN ED: Heritages & Civilizations [HAC]