This course takes a global approach to the history of modern France. For most of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, France possessed a vast empire that included significant parts of Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. In this course, we will explore the development of France’s unique national culture of republicanism, political and social rights, and the separation of church and state alongside the history of French imperial expansion, colonial racism, and the often violent end of French rule overseas. We will also consider the legacies of French colonialism and France’s position in both Europe and the wider world since the 1960s.