This seminar explores the development of modern Quebec society. The emphasis this term will be on the social, cultural, and political evolution of the province since the late nineteenth century. Our weekly discussions will focus on key themes such as the rise of Quebec nationalism in the early twentieth century, the province’s reaction to modernity, the changing role/function of the Church/religion, gender, the development of the modern bureaucratic state, as well as the Quiet Revolution and its aftermath. We will also devote considerable time discussing the major historiographical debates that have shaped both the writing of history as well as the modern Quebec mind.

**Readings:**
- Ronald Rudin, *Making History in Twentieth-Century Quebec*
- Michael Behiels, *Prelude to Quebec’s Quiet Revolution*
- Michael Gauvreau, *The Catholic Origins of Quebec’s Quiet Revolution*
- Sean Mills, *The Empire Within*
- Graham Fraser, *René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power*
- Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, *In Defiance*

Other readings to be made available online or on reserve at the Weldon Library.

**Course Requirements:**
- Seminar(s) 10%
- Essay Proposal 15%
- Research Essay 50%
- Participation 25%

**Requirements:** Students will prepare a major research essay (25 pages). Students are to select, in consultation with the instructor, a topic that deals with some aspect of French Canada’s history since the late nineteenth century. The essay is to have an argument and be based on primary and secondary sources. Students are also expected to position their research and argument within the historiography of their chosen field. This paper is to follow the usual scholarly conventions and include footnotes as well as a bibliography. The final essay is due April 4.
Since it is expected that this research essay will be a major piece of work that you develop throughout the semester you will be asked to start thinking about your topic soon. You will thus be asked to write a brief (2-3 pages) proposal of your topic along with a one-page bibliography. This proposal should demonstrate deep engagement with the topic and provide evidence that you have begun to seriously think about and read about your chosen field. This proposal and bibliography is due February 7.

Students are expected to come to the seminar every week prepared to discuss the readings. Effective participation is achieved when a student demonstrates a full understanding of the week’s readings, is willing to engage critically with these readings, and can effectively situate a particular text within a larger context. True participation occurs when a student can move beyond merely summarizing an argument to critically engage with a particular text. An effective participant is also someone who is capable of listening while others talk and of considering as well as respecting the views of other members of the seminar.

In addition to participating every week, each student will be asked to lead the discussion for at least one seminar during the semester. In this seminar students are to provide an opening presentation (10-15 minutes) that introduces the readings for that week and provides possible questions for discussion. Presenters are asked not simply to summarize the readings. Rather, they are to situate the material broadly within the larger themes of the course and to analyze its significance. Students not presenting on a particular week are expected to do the readings for that week and to come prepared to discuss them.

**Seminar Schedule**

**Jan. 10:** Introduction

**Jan. 17:** French Canadian Society
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau, “The Province of Quebec at the time of the Strike.”

**Jan. 24:** Remembering (Montreal)
- Behiels, *Prelude to Quebec’s Quiet Revolution*, 20-60, 97-120.

**Jan. 31:** Forgetting (Laval)
- Behiels, *Prelude to Quebec’s Quiet Revolution*, 61-96, 121-84.

**Feb. 7:** Church and Society

**Feb. 14:** The State

Reading Week: Feb. 20-24

Feb. 28: Liberation Theory
• Mills, The Empire Within, 3-118, 163-216.

Mar. 7: Women
• Mills, The Empire Within, 119-37.
• Gauvreau, The Catholic Origins of Quebec’s Quiet Revolution, 175-246.

Mar. 14: Language
• Graham Fraser, René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power, 91-112.
• Sean Mills, The Empire Within, 138-62.

March 21: The Sovereignty Movement
• Graham Fraser, René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois in Power, 2-90, 113-358.

March 28: The Challenge of Modernity
• Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois, In Defiance.

Apr. 4: Conclusion