

Spring 2022 — **French 450: L'Amérique, Version française** (Advanced Seminar in French & Francophone Studies)

Prof. Michael Leruth

Day/Time TBA

This course will explore evolving French perceptions of the United States and what these perceptions tell us about how France sees itself. While the course will begin with some older examples from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it will deal most extensively with the current era. Themes will include American power and excess, democracy and pop culture, leaders from Reagan to Trump, and entrepreneurial prowess and economic inequality. Authors considered will include Simone de Beauvoir on sororities and Colonial Williamsburg, Jean Baudrillard on L.A. and Vegas, Frédéric Beigbeder on 9-11, Bernard-Henri Lévy on religion and baseball, and Alain Mabanckou on Black Lives Matter. Focus on student research in diverse forms. Course conducted in French.

