1945 is a “Janus” year: while most try to understand what happened, how international relations, ways of thinking, ways of seeing, and of course ways of writing have forever changed, they are also building a new world. Very little can be salvaged from the past after five years of a war that has shred to pieces what they thought was right, was true, and inventing a future while tending to the deepest wounds is proving to be quite challenging.

In this class we’ll study works published that deal with these issues, such as *La Douleur* by Marguerite Duras, *Mon village à l’heure allemande* by Jean-Louis Bory, *Quoi de neuf sur la guerre?* by Robert Bober and *Nedjma* by Kateb Yacine, as well as poetry of the resistance and the negritude movement and visual works rendering the essence of the period.

Students will be introduced to research methods, to project managing and planning, and learn to write a research paper. They will research, contextualize, analyze primary sources, use secondary sources to back their own argument, use sound, music, visual artifacts to illustrate it, as well as learn how to critique a video or a recording.

*co-requisite French 330*

**Texts:**

*La Douleur*, Marguerite Duras,
*Les Lauriers du Lac de Constance*, Marie Chaix
*Quoi de neuf sur la guerre?*, Robert Bober