Society and Drama at the turn of the century (19C to 20C)

1) Miscellaneous
2) The Dreyfus Affair (I’Affaire Dreyfus)
3) "Cyrano de Bergerac"

**Cyrano de Bergerac**, 1897

1. Written by Edmond Rostand
   a. Romanticism began to decline in 1860s
   b. Neo-Romanticism
   c. Genre: a blend of comedy and tragedy
   d. Setting: 17th Century France
   e. Alexandrine verse:
      i. Each rhyming line has 12 syllabus
         1) Create harmony and perfection
      ii. The aligned 2 by 2
      iii. 25700 lines
      iv. The play was largely classical due to this
      v. But the plot is typically romantic

2. Producer and actors were skeptical at the beginning
   a. But the audience were so moved
   b. 300 consecutive nights
   c. Another trail for romantic drama
      i. A huge success in Europe and America

3. The Nose Monologue
4. A perfect example of brilliant and dashing French drama
5. Adaptations
   a. "Roxanne" 1987
   c. A little misleading and simplistic
6. In French culture
   a. A brilliant hero unrecognized
   b. Humor, freedom of speech, pride,
7. A play written in 1897 by ..
   a. Right in the middle of the Affair
   b. The writer is the supporter for Dreyfus
**Miscellaneous**

1. **Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi**
   a. Liberty Enlightening the World (1885)
   b. The Statue of Liberty
      i. Statue presented to America by the people of France: July 4, 1884
      ii. Statue dismantled and shipped to US: Early 1885
   c. In memory of American Independence

   a. Eiffel: Germen immigrant
      i. Also participate in the construction of Statue of Liberty
   b. Commemorate the French revolution
   c. Remain the tallest building in the world for 41 years
   d. A revolution in civil engineering and architecture design
   e. A tower of iron: never heard of before..
      i. Barbaric
         ii. Artists united to protest the construction ugly tower
            1) Maupassant hate it
               a) One day, a friend of Maupassant found him lunch there. "The only place in Paris to avoid seeing it"

   f. **The Paris Opera House**

   g. Guston Leroux (French Novelist and Journalist) ’s Comment
      i. "The Phantom of the Opera"

3. French society in the last years of French society
The Dreyfus Affair (1894-1906)

1. A political crisis
   a. 12 years
   b. Begin as a legal case
      i. But it change the phase of French society and French politics

2. Captain Alfred Dreyfus
   a. Jewish
   b. Unjustly accused of selling military secret to Germany
   c. Committed as "??"
   d. Degradation of Captain Dreyfus (1894)
      i. Traitor
      ii. Dreyfus protested "I am innocent, long live France"
      iii. That time, 20 years after the France-Prussian War
         1) Public receive this with anger
         2) And Dreyfus is Jews...
         3) Sentence to prison to French Guyana
         4) 5 years in complete isolation
            a) Small island: Devil's Island
            b) Hot and humid
            c) No sunshine
      iv. Mug shots of Alfred Dreyfus
         1) Innocent
         2) Sadness
   e. The real traitor was Ferdinand Walsin-Esterhazy
      1) Gambling: very costly hobby
      2) So sell military info for money
         i. Discover later
            1) And the officer won’t be let this open to the public
            2) Won't be looked ridiculous
      ii. One officer: Georges Picquart
         1) Decided to denounce the cover-up
         2) Began the Dreyfus Affair
            a) First focus on innocent problem
            b) But soon the corrupt of the high level
   f. Divide the country to two factions
      i. Dreyfusards
         1) Anticlearicals, liberals and left-wing intellectuals
      ii. Anti-Dreyfusards
         1) Right-wing, anti-Semites, Catholics, nationalists and conservatives
      iii. Existed some exceptions:
         1) One lawyer defend for Dreyfus was conservative
   iv. Why?
      1) The gap separating different political factions
         a) Supporter for republic and monarchy
         b) More than 80 years to the democratic ideal of French revolution
      2) 1870: a long battle for democracy
         a) not everyone support the republic
         b) The conservative are waiting to establish a less democratic government
      3) Before that affair, France was still intellectually divided
         a) Catholic Church: want to go back
         b) Liberals: move forward, reject the role of church and religion
         c) Rightist: seems increased democracy as decadence
            i) Value a form of nationalist
            ii) Support evadication of foreign people
               One. Esp. Jews
               Two. Protect traditional identity
         d) All the conflicts...background
            i) Growing
            ii) Just needed a major crisis to ignite all the things.

3. A case of a Jews officer that accused by rightists
   a. Reveal all the weakness of the French society
   b. All the social and political tension emerged to the surface, as well as the corruptions
   c. Equality and Justice for all French citizens
   d. The Dreyfus Affair soon becomes "The Affair"
      i. It was hard to remain neutral
1) And people need to choose to for or against him

ii. "A Family Dinner" (1898)

e. Soon many high-rank officers are involved to the scandal
   i. Some forge evidence to prove that Dreyfus was guilty
   ii. The real traitor was acquitted in less than 1 hour
   1) The army is behind him
   iii. A shock for Dreyfus

f. Emile Zola
   i. A passionate supporter for Dreyfus
   ii. Jan, 13, 1898
   iii. An open letter "J'Accuse..." (I accuse)
   iv. On newspaper L'AURORE
   v. 30,000 mails and telegram of encouragement
   vi. Zola: one year of prison
       1) So fleet to the England
       2) And live in extreme poverty

g. The affair shake the fundamental of the whole republic
   i. France was in a chaos
       1) The officer who forge evidence suicide
       2) Many posters, articles to express the opinions of two sides
   ii. A moral civil war
       1) Mass historian
       2) One lawyer defending Dreyfus was attracted on the street
   iii. A new trial for Dreyfus
       1) Guilty again
       2) Association created all over the world to support Dreyfus
       3) Many the Jews in Russian
       4) Queen Victoria: ask the Germen King...never reply
   iv. Cartoons, musical pieces
       1) In honor of Dreyfus
   v. Amazing number of Jews suicide
   vi. Many family agonies
   vii. Finally, a third trial and Dreyfus was announced innocent
       1) A reverse verdict
       2) Several countries send congratulations to France
       3) Meant the triumph of democracy in France
          a) Many people in the republic are not really republicans
       4) Ceremony Reinstating Dreyfus (1906)
          a) After 12 years
          b) 12 years with amazing courage and a remarkable family
          c) 20,000 "Long live Dreyfus, Long Live Justice"

4. One of the most important reform
   a. The complete separation of church and state
   b. The beginning of a new era in the history of French Republic

5. A lot of French people sacrifice their lives and reputation, and work to fight for Justice
   a. 1902: Zola died at home due to carbon dioxide fumes
   b. "Paul-Marie Dupuy, Born 1856-died 1948, and old Dreyfusard"
      i. Real passion

6. Use of the phrase "J'Accuse" today
   a. French Social Justice Organization
   b. Journal article
      i. Kosovo
   c. An English TV Show
   d. Leica
   e. Shows the impact of this phrase