Syllabus and Assignments

History 350

Spring, 1972

Note: all starred items are--I hope--on reserve in the Helen White Library.

I. 2/1 Introduction. The French Renaissance Monarchy.
2/3 The Regions of France. Economy, demography, prices in the 16th and early 17th centuries.

Readings:

II. 2/8 Noblesse de robe and bourgeois in the 16th century.
2/10 The Wars of Religion.

Readings:

III. 2/15 Henri IV. Domestic reconstruction
2/17 Henri IV. Foreign affairs. The Assassination

Readings:
  * Gaston Zeller, "Industry in France before Colbert," in Rondo Cameron, Essays in French Economic History, pp. 128-139.

IV. 2/22 The Regency and the Estates General of 1614
2/24 Young Man Richelieu

Readings:
  W. F. Church, The Impact of Absolutism in France, pp. 1-25.
  Graduate students should also look carefully at A.D. Lublinskaya, French Absolutism: The Crucial Phase (one copy in Graduate Reading Room, several on reserve in the Helen White).

V. 2/29 The dévot alternative. MAP QUIZ
3/2 Louis XIII and Richelieu: the Thirty Years' War

Readings:
  Church, Absolutism, Part II, §§ 1, 2, 3.
VI. 3/7 Louis XIII and Richelieu: domestic affairs
3/9 Art and public relations
Corneille, Le Cid, M. Bishop, tr., Seventeenth Century French Drama

VII. 3/14 Descartes and Cartesianism
3/16 Jansenism, Phase I
Readings: Descartes, Discourse on Method and Meditations (selections)
Pascal, Provincial Letters (selections)

VIII. 3/21 Peasant Revolts
3/23 The Regency, Mazarin, and the origins of the Fronde
Readings: Woloch, The Peasantry, pp. 31-73
Wolf, Louis XIV, ch. 1-10 (skim)

IX. 3/28 The Fronde
3/30 Reconstruction. The young Louis XIV.
Readings: Church, Absolutism, Part II, #s 4, 6; Part III, #1.

X. 4/11 Absolutism and bureaucracy
4/13 The politics of classical culture
Readings: Moliere, Tartuffe, in Bishop, Drama
Wolf, Louis XIV, ch. 19-20, 22-24
Ranum, Paris, 252-296.

XI. 4/18 The French economy under Colbert
4/20 French society in the age of Louis XIV
Readings: Church, Absolutism, Part III, #s 4, 6, 11-14
Wolf, Louis XIV, ch. 25.
Syllabus and Assignments, p. 3.

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XII. 4/25 French Colonialism in the Seventeenth Century
4/27 French cities in the age of Louis XIV

XIII. 5/2 Wars: diplomacy
5/4 Wars: the army. From Colbert to Louvois
Readings: Wolf, ch. 26-28

XIV. 5/11 Catholicism, Jansenism, and Protestantism in the age of Louis XIV
5/13 Intellectual crisis, 1685-1715
Readings: Racine, Phaedra, in Bishop, Drama.
Church, Absolutism, Part III, #s 2, 2, 5, 7
Wolf, Louis XIV, ch. 21-22.

XV. 5/18 Economic crisis and the movement for reform
5/20 Last years of Louis XIV. France in 1715.
Readings: Church, Absolutism, Part III, #s 8, 10, and conclusion
Wolf, Louis XIV, ch. 25-34.