COURSE NO. 378
COURSE TITLE Old Regime and the French Revolution
INSTRUCTOR Marvin Anglim

COURSE DESCRIPTION
I think that the major problem facing historians of the Revolution is whether—and how—a Marxist or class interpretation can be applied. The primary objective of the course is, therefore, to review both the class interpretation and its critiques, and to help the student to think about the problems involved in each of these positions. The first half of the course will concentrate on 18th-century France, with emphasis on social and economic structure and on efforts at fiscal and political reform. The underlying question here will be that of "revolutionary situation." What does the term mean? Was there such a situation in France before 1789? The second half of the course will deal with the Revolution, and I hope to discuss such problems as: the dynamics of the Revolution, the role of violence and class conflict in this dynamic, the participation or non-participation of various social groups and geographic regions; the achievements and failures of the Revolution.

LECTURES Two 75-minute lectures per week, with class discussion of readings scheduled either during or outside of this time.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS Graduate students will write one 10-page review paper, and the final. Undergraduates may choose one of several options: weekly diary; 6- and 12-week exams; or major research paper. All will do a take-home final.

GRADING SYSTEM Will be based mostly on student's ability to analyze readings and discuss problems raised in the course.