

University of Wisconsin
Department of History
Semester II, 1986-87

HISTORY 572: POLITICS AND CULTURE IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE
Ms. Desan
5124 Humanities

In this course we will discuss different issues and aspects of the political and cultural history of Europe in the eighteenth century. The course will be divided up into three main parts: 1) an introduction to the political structures of Europe in the 1700s by examining kings, nobles, bourgeoisie, and the people, particularly their lifestyles and their culture; 2) a close look at the Enlightenment as the major cultural movement of this time, with emphasis on national variations as well as on the political and social challenge to existing institutions; 3) a look at popular politics in late eighteenth-century Europe, ranging from Russian peasant revolts to British Wilkesite popular politics to the French Revolution.

The six books marked with an asterik (*) have been ordered and should be available at the University Book Store and at Brown's. There is also a reader of articles available at Kinko's at 620 University Avenue. This reader is required. Readings from the xeroxed reader are marked (R).

Week 1 (January 21): INTRODUCTION

PART I: POLITICAL & SOCIAL STRUCTURES OF EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE

Week 2 (January 28): THE MONARCHY

*Isser Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp. 1-59.

Clifford Geertz, "Centers, Kings, and Charisma: Reflections on the Symbolics of Power" (R).

Ralph Giesey, "Models of Rulership in French Royal Ceremonial" (R).

Robert Massie, excerpt from Peter the Great: His Life and World (R).

Week 3 (February 4): THE NOBILITY

*Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp. 60-91.

Adrien Fauchier-Magnan, excerpts from The Small German Courts in the Eighteenth Century (R).

Duc de Saint Simon, excerpts from his Memoirs about the court of Louis XIV at Versailles (R).

E. P. Thompson, "Patrician Society, Plebeian Culture" (R).

Week 4 (February 11): THE BOURGEOISIE

*Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp. 91-102, 119-45, 163-82.

Robert Darnton, "A Bourgeois Puts His World in Order" (R).

Douglas Hay, "Property, Authority, and the Criminal Law" (R).

Week 5 (February 18): THE PEASANTRY

- *Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp. 103-119, 146-63, 214-231.
- Robert Darnton, "Peasants Tell Tales" (R).
- John Ashton, selections from Chapbooks of the Eighteenth Century (R).

PART II: THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Week 6 (February 25): SCIENCE AND THE ORIGINS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT

- *Norman Hampson, The Enlightenment, pp. 15-40 & 73-97.
- I. Bernard Cohen, "The Newtonian Revolution" (R).
- *Peter Gay, The Enlightenment: a Comprehensive Anthology, pp. 46-71 (Bacon, Descartes, Newton), & pp. 144-47, 166-74 (Voltaire on Newton).
- Alexander Koyré, "The Significance of the Newtonian Synthesis" (R).

Week 7 (March 4): WHAT IS THE ENLIGHTENMENT?

- *Hampson, The Enlightenment, pp. 97-161.
- *Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp. 231-259.
- *Gay, Enlightenment Anthology, pp. 283-302 (Diderot, D'Alembert), pp. 383-90 (Kant), & pp. 354-371 (Lessing).

Week 8 (March 11): THE ENLIGHTENMENT AS SOCIAL CRITIQUE

- *Hampson, The Enlightenment, pp. 186-217.
- *Gay, Enlightenment Anthology, pp. 122-43 (Montesquieu), pp. 710-38 (Beccaria), & pp. 784-799 (Kant).
- Franco Venturi, "Enlightenment and Reforms in Eighteenth-Century Spain and Italy" & "Cesare Beccaria and Legal Reform" (R).
- *Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp. 259-70.

Week 9 (March 18): THE GERMAN ENLIGHTENMENT & NATIONAL IDENTITY

- *Friedrich Schiller, The Robbers, including introduction.
- W. H. Bruford, from Germany in the Eighteenth Century: The Social Background of the Literary Revival (R).
- *Gay, Enlightenment Anthology, pp. 525-34 (Hume).

Week 10 (April 1): POLITICAL THEORY: ROUSSEAU

- *Gay, Enlightenment Anthology, pp. 175-97 & 303-353 (Rousseau).
- James Miller, excerpt from Rousseau: Dreamer of Democracy (R).

Week 11 (April 8): THE ENLIGHTENMENT & FEMINISM: WOLLSTONECRAFT

- *Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Women, pp. 7-99, 122, 152-172, 219-221, 260-63.

PART III: POPULAR POLITICS & THE POLITICAL CHALLENGE

Week 12 (April 15): POPULAR POLITICAL REFORM IN ENGLAND & THE NETHERLANDS

- John Brewer, excerpts from Party, Ideology, and Popular Politics at the Accession of George III and "Theater and Counter-Theater in Georgian Politics: Mock Elections at Garrat" (R).
- E. H. Kossmann, "The Crisis of the Dutch State, 1780-1813:

Nationalism, Federalism, and Unitarism" (R).

Week 13 (April 22): POPULAR RIOTS & REBELLIONS

Paul Avrich, excerpts from The Russian Rebels (R).

E.P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century" (R).

Peter Linebaugh, "The Tyburn Riot Against the Surgeons" (R).

Week 14 (April 29): THE COMING OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

*Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe. pp. 323-338.

*Georges Lefebvre, The Coming of the French Revolution.

Week 15 (May 6): THE POLITICAL CULTURE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

*Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution, pp. 1-119 & 149-236.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The most essential requirement for this course is to do the reading and to participate actively in the discussions. Students will write two papers during the semester. The first paper will be short (5-6 pages), due on April 6. The topics will deal with the reading in the course. The second final paper will be longer (12-15 pages) and will require some outside reading. This paper will explore some aspect of politics or culture in eighteenth-century Europe. Topics and bibliography will be chosen in consultation with me. Finally everyone will also be responsible for presenting questions for the reading and doing an oral report on an outside reading one week during the semester.