History 707: THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

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Office Hours: Tues. 11-12 a.m.; Thurs. 1-2 pm 5120 Humanities (262-8694)

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of France from the late
seventeenth century through the French Revolution. We will pay particular attention to recent
historiographical debates over method. We will study various approaches to the French
Revolution, and recent work on state-building, colonization and transnational dynamics, the
Enlightenment and public sphere, gender, and political culture.

All books marked with an asterisk should be available at the University Bookstore. All of the
books are on reserve in HC White. There is also a crucial packet of all the other articles and
chapters. It is available in the Humanities Copy Center at 1650 Humanities.

Each student will choose between two different options for the course's written work: 1.) write
three medium-length papers (c. 10 p.) which will analyze and critique historiographical or
methodological issues raised by the readings; OR 2.) write two short (5-6 p.) reviews or think
pieces on method, and one long final paper (c. 20 p.) on a pertinent historiographical or
methodological issue. In either of these options, if it is appropriate, one paper may be a research
proposal on a topic chosen by the student. Students will also be responsible for leading the
discussions in certain weeks.

WEEK 1 (JAN. 23): INTRODUCTION
Those students who do not have much background in early modern French history should use
this period to read in surveys, such as selected essays in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France
(useful individual essays); William Beik, A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France
(useful discussion of social world of Old Regime); Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from
Louis XV to Napoleon (lively history & excellent coverage of 18th-century France); Robin
Briggs, Early Modern France (classic survey, mainly 17th c.); James Collins, The State in Early
Modern France (mostly political history); Alfred Cobban, History of Modern France, 1715-1799,
vol. 1 (older work; mainly 18th c. political history).

WEEK 2 (JAN. 30): URBAN CULTURE & SOCIETY
**David Garrioch, The Making of Revolutionary Paris (Berkeley, 2002), read 1-43, skim 44-63,
read 64-206, 260-82.
**Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, trans. Arthur Goldhammer (Cambridge, Mass.,

WEEK 3 (FEB. 6): THE EVOLVING ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY
** William Beik, ed. Louis XIV and Absolutism: A Brief Study with Documents (Boston:
Bedford-Saint-Martin’s, 2000), 1-16, 50-58, 63-69, 78-96, 121-37, 166-70, 183-88, 219-
22
**Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 1-8, 209-361, & whatever else looks interesting
(NB: we read two more chapters in Week 5 below.)
WEEK 4 (FEB. 13): SOCIAL WORLD OF OLD REGIME: NOBLES & PEASANTS
**Gwynne Lewis, France 1715-1804: Power and the People, 1-21, skim 34-61, read 62-143

WEEK 5 (FEB. 20): SMUGGLING, CONSUMPTION & GLOBAL UNDERWORLD
**Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 548-77, 608-640
{For background, you may also want to read Sylvia Marzagalli, "The French Atlantic World in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," in The Oxford Handbook of the Atlantic World: 1450-1850, ed. Nicholas Canny & Philip Morgan (N.Y., 2011), online via UW}

**PAPER DUE, Tuesday, Feb. 25 (Box #5013)

WEEK 6 (FEB. 27): COLONIZATION & RACE IN ST-DOMINGUE

WEEK 7 (MAR. 6): ENLIGHTENMENT & CULTURAL ORIGINS OF REVOLUTION
**Robert Darnton, The Forbidden Best-sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France (NY, 1995), xvii-xxii, 1-21, skim 22-114, read 137-246

WEEK 8 (MAR. 13): THE ORIGINS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
**Paul R. Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution (Oxford, 2009), 1-34
{You may also want to read **Peter McPhee, The French Revolution (Oxford, 2002), 24-49.}
WEEK 9 (MAR. 27): THE EARLY REVOLUTION: CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY
**Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight (Cambridge, Mass., 2003), 1-56, 83-223
**Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 35-86
Timothy Tackett, Becoming a Revolutionary: The Deputies of the French National Assembly and the Emergence of a Revolutionary Culture (1789-1790) (Princeton, N.J., 1996), 3-15, 149-175, 302-313

WEEK 10 (APRIL 3): REVOLUTIONARY RADICALIZATION & TRAJECTORY
NB: This week, among other things, we will go over the political trajectory of the FR.
**Peter McPhee, The French Revolution (Oxford, 2002), 89-177
**Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 87-142, 159-184
Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1984), 19-51, 87-119

WEEK 11 (APRIL 10): POLITICAL CULTURE
Victoria Thompson, “The Use and Abuse of Revolutionary Public Space.” Work in progress from her book Inventing Public Space: The Parisian Royal Plaza in the era of the French Revolution. During the second hour of class, we will have a visit from Victoria Thompson and discuss her manuscript with her.

**PAPER DUE on Monday, April 14

WEEK 12 (APRIL 17): INTERPRETING THE TERROR
**Gwynne Lewis, France 1715-1804: Power and the People, 232-70

WEEK 13 (APRIL 24): GENDER, EMOTIONS, & REVOLUTIONARY FALL-OUT
Lynn Hunt, The Family Romance of the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1992), xiii—xvi, 1-16, 53-88
Ewa Lajer-Burcharth, Necklines: The Art of Jacques-Louis David after the Terror (New Haven, 1999), 130-204

WEEK 14 (MAY 1): REVOLUTION AND THE ATLANTIC COLONIES
Laurent Dubois, "The Revolutionary Abolitionists of Haiti," in War, Empire and Slavery, 1770-1830, ed. Richard Bessel, Nicolas Guyatt, and Jane Rendall (Basingstoke, U.K., Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010), pp. 44-60
Laurent Dubois, A Colony of Citizens: Revolution & Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804 (Chapel Hill, N.C., 2004), 1-11, 105-123, 155-68
**Jeremy Popkin, You Are All Free: The Haitian Revolution and the Abolition of Slavery (Cambridge University Press), ix-120, skim 121-88, read 189-288, 327-96
WEEK 15 (MAY 8): AGE OF "DEMOCRATIC" OR "IMPERIAL" REVOLUTIONS
Miranda Spieler, Empire and Underworld: Captivity in French Guiana (Cambridge, Mass., 2012), 1-59, 231-244