History 707: THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
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Office Hrs: M & F 11-12  Humanities 5124

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of France from the seventeenth century through the French Revolution. We will pay particular attention to recent historiographical debates over method. We will study the Annales school, various approaches to the French Revolution, and recent work on popular culture and religion, state-building, colonization, 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 packet of articles and documents available in the Humanities Copy Center at 1650 Humanities. In a few cases, you will need to read material on reserve when the chunk of a book was too long to copy (for copyright reasons) and too short to merit buying the book.

Each student will choose between two different options for the course's written work: 1/ write three medium-length papers (c. 10 pages) 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. 24): INTRODUCTION

Those students who do not have much background in early modern French history may wish to use this period to read in surveys, such as the Gail Bossenga essay on “Society” and the Julian Swann essay on “The State & Political Culture,” both in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France (ordered as recommended); Robin Briggs, Early Modern France (survey, mainly 17th c.); James Collins, The State in Early Modern France; Alfred Cobban, History of Modern France, 1715-1799, vol. 1 (mainly 18th c., mainly political history); or Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon (lively history).

Week 2 (Jan. 31): PEASANTRY: ANNALISTE APPROACH & HISTOIRE DES MENTALITES


Robert Darnton, Great Cat Massacre: Episodes in French Cultural History, 3-43, 62-65
WEEK 3 (Feb. 7): HOW STRONG WAS ABSOLUTISM?: LOUIS XIV


Sharon Kettering, French Society, 1589-1715 (Essex, 2001), 81-95


Richard Dunn, Age of Religious Wars, 1559-1689 (N.Y., 1970), 128-37


Katherine Crawford, Perilous Performances: Gender and Regency in Early Modern France (Cambridge, Mass., 2004), 1-12, 98-136


Week 5 (Feb. 21): RELIGION, GENDER, CULTURAL CONFLICT, & COLONIZATION

Keith Luria, Sacred Boundaries: Religious Coexistence and Conflict in Early-Modern France (Washington, DC, 2005), xiii-xxxvii, 103-42, 193-245

** If you are unfamiliar with France’s early colonial history, read Pierre Boulle and D. Gillian Thompson, “France Overseas” in Doyle, ed. Old Regime France, 105-138


WEEK 6 (Feb. 28): PARIS AND POPULAR CULTURE

** David Garrioch, The Making of Revolutionary Paris (Berkeley, 2002), 1-11, skim 15-63, read 64-206, 260-82

Jennifer Jones, Sexing La Mode: Gender, Fashion and Commercial Culture in Old Regime France (Oxford, 2004), 145-177

**PAPER DUE, Friday, March 2 (Box #5031)

WEEK 7 (Mar. 7): EVOLUTION OF THE MONARCHY IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY


Lisa Jane Graham, *If the King Only Knew: Seditious Speech in the Reign of Louis XV* (Charlottesville, Va., 2000), 1-23, 139-181, 213-267

WEEK 8 (Mar. 14): ENLIGHTENMENT, PRINT CULTURE, AND REPRESENTATION

** Histories: French Constructions of the Past, ed. Revel and Hunt, 544-58, 479-91

Roger Chartier, *The Cultural Uses of Print in Early Modern France*, 3-12, 145-200


** Daniel Roche, *France in the Enlightenment*, 420-448, 519-547

WEEK 9 (Mar. 21): ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE ORIGINS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION


** Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*, 1-21, 138-148

Week 10 (Mar. 28): THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORIGINS OF REVOLUTION: TOCQUEVILLE, MARXISTS, & REVISIONISTS

** Peter McPhee, *The French Revolution*, skim 1-22, read 24-49

Albert Soboul, "The French Revolution in the History of the Contemporary World," in *The
French Revolution: Recent Debates and New Controversies, ed. Gary Kates, 23-43

William Doyle, Origins of the French Revolution (N.Y., third ed. 1999), 5-41


** Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution, 77-138, 169-79, 203-211

** PAPER DUE on Fri., March 30

Week 11 (April 11): OVERVIEW OF REVOLUTION & FURET’S INTERPRETATION

** Peter McPhee, The French Revolution, 50-203

François Furet, Interpreting the French Revolution, 1-79 (On reserve in HC White)

Week 12 (April 18): REVOLUTION IN POLITICAL CULTURE

Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1984), 19-51

Lynn Hunt, The Family Romance of the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1992), 53-88

** Mona Ozouf on festivals in Histories: French Constructions of the Past, ed. Revel and Hunt, 408-13


Susan Maslan, Revolutionary Acts: Theater Democracy and the French Revolution (Baltimore, 2005), 1-73

Week 13 (April 25): INTERPRETING THE TERROR & REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE


David Andress, The Terror: The Merciless War for Freedom in Revolutionary France (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), read 1-7, skim 8-115, read 116-377


Week 14 (May 2): THE REVOLUTION AND GENDER


Ewa Lajer-Burcharth, Necklines: The Art of Jacques-Louis David after the Terror (New Haven, 1999), 130-235


Week 15 (May 9): REVOLUTION AND COLONIZATION: THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION


** Laurent Dubois, Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution (Cambridge, Mass., 2004), read 1-7, skim 8-59, read 60-193, skim 194-279, read 280-306

** Final PAPER DUE on Monday, May 14