

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History

Semester II Year 86

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
320	Early Modern France 1550-1815	Desan

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will cover the history of France from the mid-sixteenth century through the Napoleonic period. The course will begin with an overview of rural life in early modern France. Next it will explore the impact of the Reformation and Wars of Religion, trace the development of the absolute monarchy, and examine the social and political structures of the Old Regime. Emphasis will be placed on social and cultural history as we examine society and culture under Louis XIV and during the Enlightenment. Finally, the course will focus on the causes and character of the French Revolution.

LECTURES

11:00 MWF

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

One Hour-exam
One 5-7 page paper
Final Exam

GRADING SYSTEM

A-F (Final Exam = 40%; Paper and Hourly-Exam = 30% each)

REQUIRED READINGS

Alfred Cobban, A History of Modern France, Vol I: 1715-1799, Penguin
Pierre Goubert, Louis XIV and Twenty Million Frenchmen, Vintage.
Franz Kafker & James Laux, The French Revolution: Conflicting Interpretations, Krieger
Montaigne, Selected Essays, ed. by D. Frame, Harlan Davidson
Moliere, Middle Class Gentlemen, Barron
Jean Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract, Penguin
Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution, Anchor

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester II, 1985-86

History 320

EARLY MODERN FRANCE, 1550-1815

Ms. Deean
5124 Humanities

Reading:

Alfred Cobban, A History of Modern France, Volume 1: 1715-1799.
Pierre Goubert, Louis XIV and Twenty Million Frenchmen
Franz Kafker and James Laux, The French Revolution: Conflicting Interpretations
Molière, Middle-Class Gentlemen
Montaigne, Selected Essays
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract
Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution

The above books have been ordered and should be available at the University Bookstore and at Brown's. There is also a reader of xeroxed documents and articles available at Kinko's at 620 University Avenue. The reader is required. Readings from the xeroxed packet are marked "R".

All students will take a one-hour exam (March 7) and a final exam. A paper (6-8 pp.) will be due on April 7. There will also be two films shown during this course:
"The Return of Martin Guerre" in Week 2,
"Danton" in Week 13.

Week 1 (January 20-24): INTRODUCTION: THE DIVERSITY OF FRANCE

Week 2 (January 27-31): RURAL LIFE IN EARLY MODERN FRANCE

Reading: Goubert, Louis XIV and 20 Million Frenchmen, pp. 7-57.

Selections from N. Z. Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre (R)

**I will show the film "The Return of Martin Guerre" this week.

Week 3 (February 3-7): SIXTEENTH-CENTURY CULTURE

Reading: Montaigne, Selected Essays.

Documents on images of women and on witchcraft (R)

Week 4 (February 10-14): REFORMATION AND THE BUILDING OF THE MONARCHY

Reading: Dunn selections on French Wars of Religion and Rise of Absolutism and "Vindiciae contra tyrannos" (R)
Goubert, pp. 61-144.

Week 5 (February 17-21): THE ABSOLUTIST STATE

Reading: Goubert, pp. 147-315.

Selection from Louis XIV's letters to his Heirs and from Bossuet (R).

Week 6 (February 24-28): SOCIETY AND CULTURE UNDER LOUIS XIV

Reading: Molière, Middle-Class Gentlemen

Madame de Sevigné, selected letters (R).

Week 7 (March 3-7): SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY
HOURLY-EXAM ON FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Reading: Selections from Descartes and Pascal (R).

Week 8 (March 10-14): IN THE WAKE OF LOUIS XIV

Reading: Cobban, A History of Modern France, 1715-1799, pp. 1-81.

Week 9 (March 17-21): THE ORIGINS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Reading: Cobban, pp. 82-151.

Excerpts from The Encyclopedia and Montesquieu's Persian Letters (R).

Week 10 (March 31-April 4): THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Reading: Rousseau, The Social Contract.

Week 11 (April 7-11): REFORM VERSUS REVOLUTION

Reading: Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution:
Part 1; Part 2: chs. 1, 2, 8, 9; Part 3: chs. 1, 3, 8.

PAPER DUE, 6-8 pages, topics will involve Rousseau and other
Enlightenment documents

Week 12 (April 14-18): THE OUTBREAK OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Reading: Kafker & Laux, The French Revolution: Conflicting Interpretations, Chapters 1 & 2.

Cobban, pp. 152-200.

Excerpts from Sieyès and Rights of Man (R).

Week 13 (April 21-25): THE RADICAL REVOLUTION

Reading: Kafker & Laux, Chapters 5 & 6.

Cobban, pp. 200-241.

Excerpts from Robespierre, Olympe de Gouges (R).

**I will show the movie "Danton" this week.

Week 14 (April 28-May 2): REVOLUTIONARY CULTURE AND THE DIRECTORY

Reading: Kafker & Laux, Chapters 7 & 8.

Cobban, 241-266.

Lynn Hunt, "The Imagery of Radicalism" (R).

Week 15: NAPOLEON

Reading: Selections from Gordon Wright in (R).