

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1992-93

HISTORY 572: Eighteenth-Century France: Society, Culture, & Revolution
Monday 2:25-4:25

Prof. Desan
5124 Humanities

This research seminar focuses on the late Old Regime and on Revolutionary France. The major purpose of the seminar is to offer students the opportunity to do a primary-source research paper on eighteenth-century French history. In the first part of the seminar we will read and discuss primary and secondary sources from this period; the second half of the course will be devoted to individual research and to the discussion of each other's research projects.

The books marked with an asterisk (*) have been ordered at the University Bookstore and placed on reserve at H.C. White. Other articles and documents are in a packet available at the Copy Center in the basement of the Humanities Building.

Week 1: (Sept 2) INTRODUCTION

Week 2: (Sept 7) = Labor day
Individual meetings during special office hours to explore initial topics will be scheduled for Wednesday or Friday.
*C.B.A. Behrens, The Ancien Régime, 1-163 (background)

Week 3: (Sept 14) THE OLD REGIME

Robert Darnton, "The Great Cat Massacre," In The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History, 95-105
John Lough, France on the Eve of Revolution: British Travellers' Observations, 31-72, and 262-303
Documents on French artisans, from Jeffrey Kaplow, France on the Eve of Revolution, 89-109

Week 4: (Sept 21) THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

*Behrens, Ancien Régime, 164-84
*George Rude, The French Revolution, 1-126
French Revolution documents: Sieyès, What is the Third Estate?; and selections from 1789 cahiers, from Kaplow, France on the Eve, 70-83, 161-70; "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen"
Robert Darnton, "The Revolutionary Character of the French Revolution," Princeton Alumni Weekly, March 18, 1989, 17-23

Week 5: (Sept 28) THE FOCUS ON RESEARCH

*McCoy, Researching and Writing History

*Rude, The French Revolution, 143-63 & 175-78

We will probably meet in the library this week.

*** SHORT PAPER DUE, Friday, Oct. 2; Document analysis

Week 6: (Oct 5) THE REVOLUTION AND LATE OLD REGIME IN A MEMOIRE

* Louis Ménétra, Journal of My Life, ed. Daniel Roche, *selected pages*.

Week 7: (Oct 12) GENDER AND REVOLUTIONARY CULTURE

Lynn Hunt, "Hercules and the Radical Image of the French Revolution," in The French Revolution and Intellectual History, ed. Jack Censer, 166-85

Joan Scott, "A Woman who has only Paradoxes to Offer: Olumpe de Gouges Claims Rights for Women," History Workshop Journal (1989): 1-21

Olympe de Gouges, "The Declaration of Rights of Women"

**** 1-2 PAGE description of topic, key primary sources, and central questions, due Friday Oct. 15.

Week 8: (Oct 19) BABEUF'S TRIAL

John Scott, ed. The Defense of Gracchus Babeuf, pp. 1-95, 107-112

Week 9: (Oct 26) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

*** BIBLIOGRAPHY of primary and secondary sources due Mon. Oct 26. In individual meetings we will discuss bibliography as well as status of research.

Week 10: (Nov 2) GROUP DISCUSSIONS OF RESEARCH

Week 11: (Nov 9) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Week 12: (Nov 16) DISCUSSION OF ROUGH DRAFTS

Week 13: (Nov 23) DISCUSSION OF ROUGH DRAFTS

Week 14: (November 30) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Week 15: (Dec 7) FINAL PRESENTATIONS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The central requirement of this course is a research paper (c. 20-25 pp.) on some aspect of eighteenth-century history. Choice of topic and compilation of bibliography will begin early in the semester, and the second half of the semester will focus primarily on the research and writing of the paper. Short assignments earlier in the semester will be oriented toward preparing you for this final paper. These short assignments include: a short 5-page paper analyzing primary material; a one-page statement of topic, source, and question; a bibliography; a group discussion of topics. Rough drafts of the final paper are due in mid-November and will be shared & discussed by groups.