

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester II, 1988-89

History 707: THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

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Humanities 5124

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of France from the late seventeenth century through the era of the French Revolution and Napoleon. We will pay particular attention to recent historiographical debates over method. We will study the Annales school, Marxist interpretations, and various approaches to cultural history.

All books marked with an asterisk should be available in the University Bookstore and/or Brown's Books. There is also a packet of articles and documents available at Kinko's at 620 University Avenue. Readings in the packet are marked "R." I have also ordered Alfred Cobban's History of Modern France, 1715-1799 as a recommended book for additional background on the political history of the eighteenth-century.

Each student will write three short papers. The papers will analyze and critique historiographical or methodological issues raised by the readings. Students will also be responsible for leading the discussions in certain weeks.

WEEK 1 (January 25): INTRODUCTION

WEEK 2 (February 1): ABSOLUTISM OF LOUIS XIV

Richard Dunn, The Age of Religious Wars, 1589-1689, pp. 128-139 & 153-164 (R).

Bossuet, Selection from Politics drawn from the Very Word of Holy Scripture (R).

Saint Simon, selection from his Mémoires, taken from William Church, ed., The Greatness of Louis XIV: Myth or Reality, pp. 21-27 (R).

William Beik, Absolutism and Society in Seventeenth-Century France, pp. 1-55 & 279-339 (R).

Perry Anderson, Lineages of the Absolutist State, Forward & pp. 85-112 (R).

WEEK 3 (February 8): THE PEASANTRY

* Pierre Goubert, The French Peasantry in the Seventeenth Century.

Robert Muchembled, Popular Culture and Elite Culture in France, 1400-1750, pp. 1-5, 183-86, 279-320 (R).

WEEK 4 (February 15): INTERPRETING POPULAR CULTURE

- * Robert Darnton, The Great Cat Massacre, Chapters 1-3.
- Roger Chartier, "Texts, Symbols, and Frenchness," Journal of Modern History 57 (1985): 682-95 (R).
- Natalie Davis, Fiction in the Archives, pp. 1-35 & 77-114 (R).

WEEK 5 (February 22): THE URBAN POOR & POPULAR CULTURE

- * Daniel Roche, The People of Paris.
- Documents on city life from Jeffrey Kaplow, France on the Eve of Revolution, pp. 89-108 & 114-118 (R).

** First paper due on Friday, February 24.

WEEK 6 (March 1): THE ENLIGHTENMENT: HIGH AND LOW

- Isser Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp. 231-264 (R).
- * Robert Darnton, Great Cat Massacre, Chapters 4-6.
- Selections from Montesquieu, Voltaire, & Diderot from Peter Gay, The Enlightenment: A Comprehensive Anthology, pp. 122-174 & 287-291 (R).

WEEK 7 (March 8): ROUSSEAU, PUBLIC SPACE, AND GENDER POLITICS

- * Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Letter to D'Alembert: Politics and the Arts.
- * Joan Landes, Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution, pp. 1-89.

WEEK 8 (March 15): THE ORIGINS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION: MARKISTS VS. REVISIONISTS

- * William Doyle, The Origins of the French Revolution, pp. 1-114.
- Georges Lefebvre, "A Series of Class Revolts," from The French Revolution: Conflicting Interpretations, eds. Frank Kafker and James Laux, pp. 3-28 (R).
- Albert Soboul, "The Classic Historiography of the French Revolution," Proceedings of the Western Society of French History (1974): 443-463 (R).
- Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution, pp. 77-107 & 203-211 (R).

WEEK 9 (March 29): THE ARISTOCRATIC REACTION? and 1789

- * Guy Chaussinand-Nogaret, The French Nobility in the Eighteenth Century.
- * William Doyle, Origins of the Revolution, pp. 115-213.

WEEK 10 (April 5): THE COURSE OF REVOLUTION

- J. M. Roberts, The French Revolution, pp. 1-77 (R). -- OR --
- * Alfred Cobban, A History of Modern France, 1715-1799, vol. 1, Part III. (or another short history of the Revolution)
- Documents: "Rights of Man"; Abbé Sieyès, "What is the Third

Estate?"; various depictions of the August 10, 1792 overthrow of the monarchy and of the revolutionary government of the Year II. Mainly from Philip Dawson, The French Revolution, pp. 91-108 & 119-148.

** Second paper due on Friday, April 7.

WEEK 11 (April 12): RADICALIZATION AND POPULAR ACTIVISM

* Albert Soboul, The Sans-Culottes, pp. xiv-xxxvi, 1-64, 95-179, 223-264.

Richard Cobb, The Police and the People: French Popular Protest, (1789-1820), pp. 172-211 (R).

François Furet, Claude Mazauric, and Louis Bergeron, "The Sans-Culottes and the French Revolution," in New Perspectives on the French Revolution, Jeffrey Kaplow, ed., pp. 226-253 (R).

WEEK 12 (April 19): POLITICAL CULTURE OF THE REVOLUTION

* Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution, skip Chapter 4.

François Furet, Interpreting the French Revolution, pp. 1-79.
This book will be on reserve in Helen C. White Library.

WEEK 13 (April 26): POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY IN ACTION: PEASANTS & TOWNSPEOPLE

Colin Lucas, "The Crowd and Politics between the Ancien Regime and Revolution in France," Journal of Modern History 60 (1988): 421-457 (R).

David Hunt, "The People and Pierre Dolivier: Popular Uprisings in the Seine-et-Oise Department (1791-1792)" French Historical Studies 11 (1979): 184-214 (R).

Suzanne Desan, "Redefining Religious Liberty: The Rhetoric of Religious Revival during the French Revolution," Journal of Modern History 60 (1988): 1-27 (R).

WEEK 14 (May 3): WOMEN AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

* Landes, Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution, pp. 93-206.

Darlene Gay Levy & Harriet Branson Applewhite, "Women and Political Revolution in Paris," in Becoming Visible: Women in European History, 2nd edition, Renate Bridenthal, Claudia Koonz, and Susan Stuard, eds., pp. 279-306 (R).

Jane Abray, "Feminism and the French Revolution," American Historical Review 80 (1975): 43-62 (R).

WEEK 15 (May 10): NAPOLEON

* Franz Kafker & James Laux, Napoleon: Selected Interpretations, selected sections.

** Final paper due Friday, May 12.