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
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).

WEEK 3 (February 8): THE PEASANTRY
WEEK 4 (February 15): INTERPRETING POPULAR CULTURE
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.

WEEK 7 (March 8): ROUSSEAU, PUBLIC SPACE, AND GENDER POLITICS
* 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: MARXISTS VS. REVISIONISTS
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

WEEK 10 (April 5): THE COURSE OF REVOLUTION
Documents: "Rights of Man"; Abbé Siéyès, "What is the Third

** Second paper due on Friday, April 7.

**WEEK 11 (April 12): RADICALIZATION AND POPULAR ACTIVISM**

**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**

**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.

**WEEK 15 (May 10): NAPOLEON**
* Franz Kafka & James Laux, Napoleon: Selected Interpretations, selected sections.

** Final paper due Friday, May 12.