

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester II, 2013-2014

**History 707: THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION**

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Office Hours: Tues. 11-12 a.m.; Thurs. 1-2 pm

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5120 Humanities (262-8694)

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of France from the late seventeenth century through the French Revolution. We will pay particular attention to recent historiographical debates over method. We will study various approaches to the French Revolution, and recent work on state-building, colonization and transnational dynamics, 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 crucial packet of all the other articles and chapters. It is available in the Humanities Copy Center at 1650 Humanities.

Each student will choose between two different options for the course's written work: 1.) write three medium-length papers (c. 10 p.) 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. 23): INTRODUCTION**

Those students who do not have much background in early modern French history should use this period to read in surveys, such as selected essays in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France (useful individual essays); William Beik, A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France (useful discussion of social world of Old Regime); Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon (lively history & excellent coverage of 18<sup>th</sup>-century France); Robin Briggs, Early Modern France (classic survey, mainly 17th c.); James Collins, The State in Early Modern France (mostly political history); Alfred Cobban, History of Modern France, 1715-1799, vol. 1 (older work; mainly 18th c. political history).

**WEEK 2 (JAN. 30): URBAN CULTURE & SOCIETY**

\*\*David Garrioch, The Making of Revolutionary Paris (Berkeley, 2002), read 1-43, skim 44-63, read 64-206, 260-82.

\*\*Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, trans. Arthur Goldhammer (Cambridge, Mass., 1998, orig. ed. 1993), 641-73

**WEEK 3 (FEB. 6): THE EVOLVING ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY**

\*\* William Beik, ed. Louis XIV and Absolutism: A Brief Study with Documents (Boston: Bedford-Saint-Martin's, 2000), 1-16, 50-58, 63-69, 78-96, 121-37, 166-70, 183-88, 219-22

\*\*Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 1-8, 209-361, & whatever else looks interesting (NB: we read two more chapters in Week 5 below.)

#### **WEEK 4 (FEB. 13): SOCIAL WORLD OF OLD REGIME: NOBLES & PEASANTS**

Gail Bossenga, "Society," in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France (NY, 2002), 42-77

\*\*Gwynne Lewis, France 1715-1804: Power and the People, 1-21, skim 34-61, read 62-143

\*\*Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution, 22-31, 77-138, 169-79, 203-211

#### **WEEK 5 (FEB. 20): SMUGGLING, CONSUMPTION & GLOBAL UNDERWORLD**

Michael Kwass, Contraband: Louis Mandrin and the Making of a Global Underground (Cambridge, Mass., forthcoming 2014). Kwass has kindly allowed us to read his page proofs. Pages TBA.

\*\*Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 548-77, 608-640

{For background, you may also want to read Sylvia Marzagalli, "The French Atlantic World in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," in The Oxford Handbook of the Atlantic World: 1450-1850, ed. Nicholas Canny & Philip Morgan (N.Y., 2011), online via UW }

**\*\*PAPER DUE, Tuesday, Feb. 25 (Box #5013)**

#### **WEEK 6 (FEB. 27): COLONIZATION & RACE IN ST-DOMINGUE**

\*\*John Garrigus, Before Haiti: Race and Citizenship in French Saint-Domingue (N.Y., 2006), 1-170, skim 171-94, read 195-225

Guillaume Aubert, "The Blood of France': Race and Purity of Blood in the French Atlantic World." William and Mary Quarterly 61 (2004): 439-78 (online)

#### **WEEK 7 (MAR. 6): ENLIGHTENMENT & CULTURAL ORIGINS OF REVOLUTION**

Sarah Maza, "The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution," in Peter McPhee, ed. A Companion to the French Revolution (Chichester, U.K., John Wiley & Sons, 2013), 42-56, available online through UW Library

\*\*Robert Darnton, The Forbidden Best-sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France (NY, 1995), xvii-xxii, 1-21, skim 22-114, read 137-246

Roger Chartier, "Do Books Make Revolutions?" from his The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution, reprinted in Peter Jones, ed., The French Revolution in Social and Political Perspective (London, 1996), 166-88

Keith Michael Baker, "Enlightenment Idioms, Old Regime Discourses, and Revolutionary Improvisation," in From Deficit to Deluge: The Origins of the French Revolution, ed. Thomas E. Kaiser and Dale Van Kley (Stanford, 2011), 165-197

#### **WEEK 8 (MAR. 13): THE ORIGINS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION**

\*\*Paul R. Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution (Oxford, 2009), 1-34

Albert Soboul, "The Crisis of Society," in The French Revolution, 1787-1799, trans. Alan Forrest & Colin Jones (NY: Vintage Books, 1975) 33-75

T.C.W. Blanning, The French Revolution : aristocrats versus bourgeois? (Atlantic City, N.J., 2002), 1-51

Colin Jones, "The Bourgeois Revolution Revivified: 1789 and Social Change," in Rewriting the French Revolution, ed. Colin Lucas; reprinted in Jones, ed. The French Revolution, 72-99

{ You may also want to read \*\*Peter McPhee, The French Revolution (Oxford, 2002), 24-49. }

**WEEK 9 (MAR. 27): THE EARLY REVOLUTION: CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY**

\*\*Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight (Cambridge, Mass., 2003), 1-56, 83-223

\*\*Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 35-86

Timothy Tackett, Becoming a Revolutionary: The Deputies of the French National Assembly and the Emergence of a Revolutionary Culture (1789-1790) (Princeton, N.J., 1996), 3-15, 149-175, 302-313

**WEEK 10 (APRIL 3): REVOLUTIONARY RADICALIZATION & TRAJECTORY**

NB: This week, among other things, we will go over the political trajectory of the FR.

\*\*Peter McPhee, The French Revolution (Oxford, 2002), 89-177

\*\*Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 87-142, 159-184

Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1984), 19-51, 87-119

**WEEK 11 (APRIL 10): POLITICAL CULTURE**

Mona Ozouf, Festivals and the French Revolution, trans. Alan Sheridan (Cambridge, Mass., 1998, orig ed. 1976), 159-196

Maurice Agulhon, "Paris: A Traversal from East to West," in Pierre Nora, ed. Realms of Memory, vol III. Symbols, 523-553

Victoria Thompson, "The Use and Abuse of Revolutionary Public Space." Work in progress from her book Inventing Public Space: The Parisian Royal Plaza in the era of the French Revolution. During the second hour of class, we will have a visit from Victoria Thompson and discuss her manuscript with her.

**\*\*PAPER DUE on Monday, April 14**

**WEEK 12 (APRIL 17): INTERPRETING THE TERROR**

\*\*Gwynne Lewis, France 1715-1804: Power and the People, 232-70

François Furet, Interpreting the French Revolution (N.Y., 1981, orig. ed. 1978), 1-79

Marissa Linton, Choosing Terror: Virtue, Friendship and Authenticity in the French Revolution (Oxford, 2013), 1-25, 137-84

**WEEK 13 (APRIL 24): GENDER, EMOTIONS, & REVOLUTIONARY FALL-OUT**

Lynn Hunt, The Family Romance of the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1992), xiii—xvi, 1-16, 53-88

Ewa Lajer-Burcharth, Necklines: The Art of Jacques-Louis David after the Terror (New Haven, 1999), 130-204

William Reddy, "Sentimentalism and its Erasure," Journal of Modern History 72 (2000): 109-152

William Reddy, The Navigation of Feeling: A Framework for the History of the Emotions (Cambridge, UK, 2001), 211-256

**WEEK 14 (MAY 1): REVOLUTION AND THE ATLANTIC COLONIES**

Laurent Dubois, "The Revolutionary Abolitionists of Haiti," in War, Empire and Slavery, 1770-1830, ed. Richard Bessel, Nicolas Guyatt, and Jane Rendall (Basingstoke, U.K., Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010), pp. 44-60

Laurent Dubois, A Colony of Citizens: Revolution & Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804 (Chapel Hill, N.C., 2004), 1-11, 105-123, 155-68

\*\*Jeremy Popkin, You Are All Free: The Haitian Revolution and the Abolition of Slavery (Cambridge University Press), ix-120, skim 121-88, read 189-288, 327-96

**\*\* FINAL PAPER DUE on Mon., May 12**

**WEEK 15 (MAY 8): AGE OF "DEMOCRATIC" OR "IMPERIAL" REVOLUTIONS**

Robert Palmer, The Age of the Democratic Revolution, vol. 1, The Challenge (Princeton, NJ, 1959), 3-23; and "Sister Republics" & "Batavian, Helvetic and Italian Republics" in

Palmer, The World of the French Revolution (N.Y., 1971), 149-194

Jeremy Adelman, "An Age of Imperial Revolutions" American Historical Review 113 (2008): 319-340 (online)

Miranda Spieler, Empire and Underworld: Captivity in French Guiana (Cambridge, Mass., 2012), 1-59, 231-244

Ian Coller, "Egypt and the French Revolution," & Pierre Serna, "Every Revolution is a War of Independence," in Suzanne Desan, Lynn Hunt, and William Max Nelson, eds. The French Revolution in Global Perspective (Ithaca, N.Y., 2013), 115-131, 165-82