

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 2005-2006

THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

History 358
Office hours: Tues. 3:30-5:30
5124 Humanities

Prof. Suzanne Desan
smdesan@wisc.edu
T.A., Sarah Robinson

Reading:

Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon
Paul Johnson, Napoleon
Jacques Ménétra, Journal of My Life
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Basic Political Writings
Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of France from 1660 to 1815, from the absolutist monarchy of Louis XIV through the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era. After examining the structure of Old Regime society and government, we will explore the revolutionary challenge to that order. Particular themes will include absolutist monarchy vs. revolutionary republicanism; the aristocratic world of court; popular politics and the lives of ordinary men and women; the French colonial system and slavery; and the attempt by Enlightenment philosophes and then the French revolutionaries to rethink and transform their world; revolutionary politics, thought, and social reform; and Napoleon's effort to create a massive European empire.

Reading: The above books are available at the University Bookstore and on reserve in H. C. White library. They are marked with an asterisk (*) in the assignments below. **There is also a READER of xeroxed articles and documents available at the Copy Center in 1650 Humanities and on reserve. The reader is required. Readings from the reader are marked "R." Students will have the opportunity to discuss in the readings in weekly discussion sections, which are a required part of the course.

Requirements: All students will take an in-class exam on Thursday, Oct. 27 and a final exam. All students will also write a paper: 4-5 pages for 3-credit students and 10-12 pages for 4-credit students, due on Fri., Dec. 8. These papers will be based on primary sources, and you will be able to choose or create a topic from any time period of the course. Final grades will be based as follows: for 4-credit students: 20% discussion & section participation; 25% midterm exam; 25% paper; 30% final exam; for 3-credit students: 20% discussion & section participation; 25% midterm exam; 20% paper; 35% final exam.

WEEK 1 (Sept. 6-8): INTRODUCTION & LOUIS XIV

Reading: * Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon, 1-35
Bossuet, passage from Politics drawn from the Very Word of Holy Scripture; and Saint Simon, from his Memoires (R)

WEEK 2 (Sept 13-15): THE ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY & ARISTOCRATIC WORLDS

Reading: *Jones, Great Nation, 36-81
Gail Bossenga, "Society," in Old Regime France, ed. William Doyle (N.Y., 1981), 42-77 (R)

WEEK 3 (Sept 20-22): THE PEASANTRY & URBAN ARTISANS

Reading: * Jones, Great Nation, 148-59
Olwen Hufton, "Women and the Family Economy in the Eighteenth Century" (R)
* Jacques Ménétra, A Journal of My Life, vii-30, 243-263

WEEK 4 (Sept 27-29) RELIGION & THE GROWING ECONOMY

Reading: *Jacques Ménétra, Journal of My Life, pp. 31-60, 264-316
* Jones, Great Nation, 159-70

WEEK 5 (Oct. 4-6): THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, SLAVERY, & COLONIALISM

Reading: Laurent Dubois, Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution

(Cambridge, Mass., 2004), 18-21, 36-59 (R)

* Jones, Great Nation, 171-96, 212-225

Raynal and anti-slavery documents in Lynn Hunt, ed. The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History, 51-59 (R)

WEEK 6 (Oct 11-13): THE ENLIGHTENMENT I

Reading: Voltaire and Edict of Toleration in Hunt, ed. French Revolution & Rights, 38-43 (R)

Diderot excerpt from Encyclopedia & Dumarsais, "Definition of a Philosophe" in Isaac Kramnick, The Enlightenment Reader, 17-23 (R)

* Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Selections from The Discourse on the Origins of Inequality, 25-29, 33-39, 59-81 {pages = from Rousseau, Basic Political Writings (Hackett)}

WEEK 7 (Oct 18-20): ENLIGHTENMENT II & POLITICS AT MID-CENTURY

Reading: * Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Selections from The Social Contract, 141-66, 170-72.

Thomas, d'Épinay & Rousseau in Lives & Voices: Sources in European Women's History, 243-251(R)

* Jones, Great Nation, 125-148, 226-245

WEEK 8 (Oct 25-27): DIPLOMACY, REVIEW, AND EXAM

** In-class EXAM on Thursday, Oct 27

No reading

WEEK 9 (Nov 1-3): CAUSES AND OUTBREAK OF FRENCH REVOLUTION

Reading: * Jones, Great Nation, 336-422

Abbé Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?"; Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (R)

WEEK 10 (Nov 8-10): KING'S FLIGHT & RADICALIZATION OF REVOLUTION

Reading: *Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight, 1-56, 83-118,137-155,165-198

WEEK 11 (Nov 15-17): REPUBLICANISM AND SOCIAL REFORMS

Reading: *Jones, Great Nation, 449-475

Darline Gay Levy & Harriet Branson Applewhite, "Women and Political Revolution in Paris," in Becoming Visible: Women in European History, ed, R. Bridenthal et al., 262-290 (R).

* Documents on Jews' rights: 93-101; and Olympe de Gouges, "Declaration of the Rights of Women", 124-129, in Hunt, ed. French Revolution and Human Rights, (R)

WEEK 12 (Nov 22): REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL CULTURE

Reading: Emmet Kennedy, A Cultural History of the French Revolution (N.Y., 1989), 329-353 (R)

Lynn Hunt, "Hercules and the Radical Image in the French Revolution" in The French Revolution and Intellectual History, ed. Jack Censer (Chicago, 1994),166-185 (R)

WEEK 13 (Nov 29-Dec 1): THE TERROR IN FRANCE & REVOLUTION IN THE COLONIES

Reading: * Jones, Great Nation, 476-506

Views of Robespierre from George Rudé, ed., Robespierre, 161-175 (R)

Robespierre's Speech on Terror (R)

Jack Censer and Lynn Hunt, "The Revolution in the Colonies," Liberty, Equality, Fraternity (University Park, Pa., 2001), 115-138 (R)

WEEK 14 (Dec 6-8): GLOBAL RAMIFICATIONS & THE RISE OF NAPOLEON

Reading: Peter McPhee, "Significance of the Revolution," in The French Revolution, 178-204 (R)

* Paul Johnson, Napoleon, ix-83 (mid-chapter)

** Paper Due: Friday, Dec. 8 in Sarah Robinson's box #4099 on 4th floor of Humanities by 5pm

WEEK 15 (Dec 13-15): NAPOLEON & THE REVOLUTIONARY LEGACY

Reading: * Paul Johnson, Napoleon, 106 (mid-chapter)-166

Selection from Napoleon Bonaparte, How to Make War, ed. Yann Cloarec, 3-17, 37-51 (R)

FINAL EXAM = 2:45 on Tues., Dec. 20

Discussion Syllabus
History 358: The Old Regime and French Revolution
Professor Desan, Fall 2005

Sarah Robinson, TA
 serobinson2@wisc.edu

Office: 4268 Humanities
 Office Phone: 263-1867

Office Hours:

My office hours are Mondays from 9:00-11:00, or by appointment. Please stop by. If you need to contact me outside class, e-mail is best.

Weekly Schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.
9-11 TA Office Hrs., 4268 Humanities	11:00-12:15 Lecture, 1641 Humanities		11:00-12:15 Lecture, 1641 Humanities	
	1:20-2:10 Section 301, 2121 Humanities			
	2:25-3:15 Section 302, 2111 Humanities			
	3:30-5:30 Prof. Office Hrs., 5124 Humanities		3:30-4:20 Section 303, 2121 Humanities	
			4:35-5:25 Section 304, 2111 Humanities	

Note: If you need to miss your regular section, please check with me before attending another.

Discussion Grades:

I will be taking attendance every week in discussion. Please bring your readings with you to section and be prepared to talk. Discussion grades will be based on attendance, participation in discussion, and on weekly response papers (see below).

Response Papers:

Every week, I will be posting discussion questions to our class website and asking for your thoughts on the assigned readings. Please post your response on our class website by 3:30PM the day before your section meets.

These response papers are designed to get discussion moving and to give you a chance to chew over some of the more interesting debates in French Revolutionary history. An informal writing style is fine. This is your chance to play devil's advocate, to explain what confused you about the readings, and make off-the-wall observations.

To cut down on the workload, you will not have to post an answer every week. Instead, the class will divide into two groups, each posting every other week. The schedule for the two groups will look like this:

Jacobins	Girondins
Week of 9/6-9/8: Bossuet and Saint Simon	Week of 9/13-9/15: Bossenga
Week of 9/20-9/22: Hufton and Menetra (1)	Week of 9/27-9/29: Menetra (2)
Week of 10/4-10/6: Dubois & Raynal	Week of 10/11-10/13: Enlightenment Philosophes
Week of 10/18-10/20: Rousseau	Week of 11/1-11/3: Sieyes & Declaration
Week of 11/8-11/10: Tackett	Week of 11/15-11/17: de Gouges
Week of 11/22: Hunt and Kennedy	Week of 11/29-12/1: Robespierre
Week of 12/6-12/8: McPhee & Johnson	Week of 12/13-12/15: Bonaparte

Even if you are not posting on a given week, please log in and look at what your classmates have written. At the end of the term, you should have posted six responses. This gives you the chance to miss one week. You may, of course, post more often if you would like.

Web Discussion:

To access the web discussion, please use the following steps:

1. Go to <http://uwmad.courses.wisconsin.edu>
2. Log in. Your userID is everything before "@wisc.edu" in your email address, and your password is the same as your email password.
3. Follow the link for "History 358" under the heading "My Madison Courses." If you do not see the link right away, click on the "+" sign next to "2005 - FALL"
4. Click on the "Discussion" link in the upper left corner.
5. Find your section on the left side of the screen. Underneath the heading "Section 30x" there will be a list of topics. Click on the topic for the week's reading.
6. Here, you can see my question and your fellow students' posts by clicking on each one. You may add your own observations by hitting "Reply" -- either while reading my question post or a colleague's responses.
7. Hitting "reply" will bring up a screen called "Add Message." Type in your response paper and hit "Submit."
8. Your post will appear in a few seconds at the top of the page. You are done. Go ahead and log out.