

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 2009-2010

THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

History 358

Office hours: Tues. 3:30-5:00; Thurs. 12:30-1:15
5120 Humanities

Prof. Suzanne Desan
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T.A., Katie Jarvis

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 have been ordered and should be 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. 22 and a final exam. All students will also write a paper: 4-5 pages for 3-credit students and 9-11 pages for 4-credit students, due on Fri., Dec. 4. 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. 3): INTRODUCTION

Reading: * Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon, 1-35

WEEK 2 (Sept. 8-10): LOUIS XIV & THE ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY

Reading: * Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon, 36-81
Bossuet, passage from Politics drawn from the Very Word of Holy Scripture; and Saint Simon,
from his Memoirs (R)

"Louis XIV's Letter to His Heirs," in Brian Tierney et al., ed. Great Issues in Western Civilization (N.Y., 1992, 4th ed.), II: 11-16, 21-23 (R)

WEEK 3 (Sept 15-17): ARISTOCRATS & PEASANTS

Reading: * Jones, Great Nation, 148-59

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

Olwen Hufton, "Women and the Family Economy in the Eighteenth Century," French Historical Studies 9 (1975): 1-22. (R).

Petition of Grievances from the community of Lignère la Doucelle; Two Letters relating to marriage, from Family, Gender and Law in Early Modern France, 20-21, 49-51 (R)

WEEK 4 (Sept 22-24): URBAN ARTISANS, POPULAR CULTURE, RELIGION

Reading: * Jacques Ménétra, A Journal of My Life, vii-80, 243-280, 299-316

WEEK 5 (Sept 29- Oct. 1) THE GROWING ECONOMY, SLAVERY, & COLONIALISM

Reading: * Jones, Great Nation, 159-70

Laurent Dubois, Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution, 18-21, 36-59 (R)

Raynal, A History of the Two Indies, ed. Peter Jimack, 152-162 and anti-slavery documents in Lynn Hunt, ed. The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History, 55-59 (R)

WEEK 6 (Oct. 6-8): THE ENLIGHTENMENT I

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

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

Diderot, from Encyclopedia & Dumarsais, "Philosophe" in 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 13-15): THE ENLIGHTENMENT II

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

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

WEEK 8 (Oct 20-22): POLITICS AT MID-CENTURY AND EXAM

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

** In-class EXAM on Thursday, Oct 22

WEEK 9 (Oct 27-29): CAUSES AND OUTBREAK OF FRENCH REVOLUTION

Reading: * Jones, Great Nation, 336-422

Abbé Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" in Sources of the Making of the West, II: 89-93 (R)

Accounts of the Popular Unrest and the Decree Abolishing Feudalism, in The Old Regime and the French Revolution, ed. K. M. Baker (Chicago, 1987), 217, 220-23, 226, 228-231 (R)

WEEK 10 (Nov 3-5): KING'S FLIGHT & RADICALIZATION OF REVOLUTION

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

"The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" in Sources of the West, 69-70 (R)

"Women's March to Versailles" in The French Revolution: A Document Collection, 83-89 (R)

WEEK 11 (Nov 10-12): REPUBLICANISM AND SOCIAL REFORMS

Reading: * Jones, Great Nation, 449-475

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

Dominique Godineau, "Masculine and Feminine Political Practice during the French Revolution, 1793-Year III," in Women and Politics in the Age of Democratic Revolution, 61-80 (R)

WEEK 12 (Nov 17-19): REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL CULTURE & THE TERROR

Reading: * Jones, Great Nation, 476-506

“Revolutionary Calendar” & “The Festival of the Supreme Being,” in The Old Regime and the French Revolution, 362-67, 384-391 (R)

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

Robespierre, “Report on Principles of Political Morality” The French Revolution, 254-258 (R)

WEEK 13 (Nov. 24): THE DIRECTORY AND REVOLUTION ABROAD

No Section: Katie will hold extended office hours for consulting about papers

WEEK 14 (Dec. 1-3): REVOLUTION IN THE COLONIES & THE RISE OF NAPOLEON

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

Decree of General Liberty, in Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804, 120-125 (R)

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

** Paper Due: Friday, Dec. 4 in Katie Jarvis’s box #4096 on 4th floor of Humanities by 5pm

WEEK 15 (Dec. 8-10): NAPOLEON’S EMPIRE

Reading: * Paul Johnson, Napoleon, 106 (mid-chapter)-168

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

WEEK 16 (Dec 15): NAPOLEON & THE REVOLUTIONARY LEGACY

Reading: Peter McPhee, “Significance of the Revolution,” in his The French Revolution, 1789-1799 (N.Y., 2002), 178-204 (R)

FINAL EXAM = 10:05 on Thurs., Dec. 17