

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester II, 1993-94

HISTORY 572: EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY FRANCE: SOCIETY, CULTURE, & REVOLUTION

Prof. Desan  
5124 Humanities

This course will address various aspects of popular culture, social history, and popular politics in eighteenth-century France. After a brief introduction to the structure of Old Regime society and government, the first half of the course will focus on the lifestyle, beliefs, and practices of the urban and rural popular classes on the eve of the Revolution. The second part of the course will ask what impact the revolutionary decade had on the political perceptions and traditional habits of the French people.

The books marked with an asterisk (\*) have been ordered at the University Bookstore and placed on reserve at H.C. White. Other articles and documents are in a packet available at the Humanities Copy Center in 1650 Humanities Building.

Week 1: (Jan 24) INTRODUCTION

PART I: OLD REGIME FRANCE: POPULAR CULTURE

Week 2: (Jan 31) THE OLD REGIME: BACKGROUND

\*C.B.A. Behrens, The Ancien Régime, 1-137

\*Emmet Kennedy, A Cultural History of the French Revolution, 27-51.

Week 3: (Feb 7) URBAN CULTURE OF PARIS

\*Arlette Farge, Fragile Lives: Violence, Power, and Solidarity in Eighteenth-Century Paris, 1-168

Robert Darnton, "Workers' Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre," from his The Great Cat Massacre and other Episodes in French Cultural History, 75-104

Week 4: (Feb 14) STREET LIFE & URBAN ENTERTAINMENT

\*Robert Isherwood, Farce and Fantasy: Popular Entertainment in Eighteenth-Century Paris, 1-97, 161-255

Week 5: (Feb 21) THE PEASANTRY, FAMILY ECONOMY, & POVERTY

Olwen Hufton, The Poor of Eighteenth-Century France, 25-68

Gay Gullickson, Spinners and Weavers of Auffay, 129-60.

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

Nicole Castan, "Criminals," in A History of Women: Renaissance and Enlightenment Paradoxes, eds. Natalie Davis and Arlette Farge, 475-488

Week 6: (Feb 28) ARTISANAL WORLDS

\*Jacques Ménétra, Journal of My Life, ed. Daniel Roche, vii-60; 217-316.

Week 7: (March 7) CROWDS AND RIOTING

\*Farge, Fragile Lives, 171-286

Louise Tilly, "The Food Riot as a Form of Political Conflict in France," Journal of Interdisciplinary History 2 (1971): 23-58

\*\* PAPER DUE on Friday, March 11. My BOX = #5031, fifth floor Humanities

PART II: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION & THE PEOPLE

Week 8: (March 14) OUTBREAK OF FRENCH REVOLUTION

\*Behrens, Ancien Régime, 138-84

French Revolution documents: Sieyès, What is the Third Estate?; "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen"

Robert Darnton, "The Revolutionary Character of the French Revolution"

Week 9: (March 21) THE PEASANT REVOLUTION

\* Georges Lefebvre, The Great Fear,

Week 10: (No Monday Class) BACKGROUND ON FRENCH REVOLUTION

Additional Office Hours for Final Papers

Eric Hobsbawm, "The French Revolution," from his The Age of Revolution, 74-100

Week 11 (April 11) REVOLUTION IN CULTURE I: WORDS, DRESS, SYMBOLS

\*Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution, 1-117

\*Emmet Kennedy, A Cultural History of the French Revolution, 197-234, 293-328.

Week 12: (April 18) THE POLITICS OF THE KING

\*David Jordan, The King's Trial, 1-160, 178-237.

Speeches from Louis XVI's trial

Week 13: (April 25) WOMEN AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE OF POLITICS

\*Joan Landes, Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution, 1-168

Lynn Hunt, "The Many Bodies of Marie Antoinette," in Eroticism and the Body Politic, ed. Lynn Hunt, 108-30

Olympe de Gouges, "Declaration of the Rights of Women," from Women in Revolutionary Paris. eds. D.G. Levy, Harriet Applewhite, and M. D. Johnson, 87-96.

Week 14: (May 2) REVOLUTION IN CULTURE II: THEATER, CARICATURE, ART

\*Emmet Kennedy, A Cultural History of the French Revolution, 235-292, 329-392.

James Johnson, "French Revolutionary Audiences and the Impossible Imperatives of Fraternity," in Re-Creating Authority in Revolutionary France, eds. Bryant Ragan and Elizabeth Williams, 57-78

Antoine de Baecque, "The Citizen in Caricature: Past and Present," in The French Revolution and the Meaning of Citizenship, eds. Renée Waldinger, Philip Dawson, & Isser Woloch, 58-80

Week 15: (May 9) REVOLUTIONARY ACTORS AND CLASS

\*Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class, 149-212

Documents on Sans-Culottes, Keith M. Baker, ed. The Old Regime and the French Revolution, 330-40

Dominique Godineau, "Masculine and Feminine Political Practice during the French Revolution, 1793-Year III," in Women and Politics in the Age of Democratic Revolution, ed. Harriet B. Appelwhite and Darline G. Levy, 61-80

\*\* FINAL PAPER DUE: Wednesday May 11

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The most essential requirement for this course is to do the reading and participate actively in the discussions. Students will write two papers during the semester. The first paper will be short (5-6 pages), due on March 11. The topics will deal with reading in the course. The second paper will be longer (14-16 pages) and will require outside reading and research. This paper will explore some aspect of Old Regime or revolutionary culture among the popular classes. Students will choose the topic in consultation with me. The due date is Wednesday May 11. Finally, everyone will also be responsible for presenting questions for the reading (twice) and doing an oral report on an outside reading during one week in the semester.