

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 2015-2016

HISTORY 600: MARIE-ANTOINETTE & THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Monday: 1:20-3:15

Professor Desan

Office hours: Monday 3:20-5:20 pm

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This course explores the dramatic life of Marie-Antoinette as a window into pre-revolutionary France and the French Revolution. We will study Marie-Antoinette not only as a historical actor, but also as a symbol and a mythic figure. Even before 1789, why does she become a lightning rod of scandal and outrageous sexual politics at the court of Versailles? How does hatred of the Queen become intertwined with the fall of the Monarchy? And what can studying Marie-Antoinette tell us about why France launched a radical Revolution? We will also use her experiences during the Revolution itself to examine pivotal, political issues during this astonishing moment in history. The Queen's personal trajectory was bound up with key turning points of the Revolution. Notably, studying her fate raises questions about popular activism, gender politics, monarchy and democracy, international geopolitics and war, and the Terror. Via the Queen's life, we will discuss those issues more broadly in revolutionary France. Finally, we will look at representations of Marie-Antoinette into the more modern era, particularly in film. Why does her memory have such ability to fascinate people after more than 200 years?

The major purpose of the seminar is to offer students the opportunity to do a primary-source research paper on any issue to do with Marie-Antoinette or her era. Students can write on diverse topics, including issues not raised in our collective reading. Sources can include pamphlets, memoirs, personal letters, novels or other literary sources, political manifestos, travelogues, newspapers, moral or medical treatises, works of diplomatic or military theory, political caricature, etc. During the first half of the course, we will do some background reading and sample a variety of primary sources. The second half of the course will be devoted to researching and writing your papers, and also discussing each other's research projects.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The central requirement of this course is a research paper (c. 20-25 pp.) on a topic related to Marie-Antoinette or a related aspect of the late Old Regime or revolutionary era. Choice of topic and compilation of bibliography will begin early in the semester, and the second half of the semester will focus primarily on the research and writing of the paper. Short assignments earlier in the semester will be oriented toward preparing you for this final paper. These short assignments include: a 5-page paper analyzing primary material, due on Monday, Sept. 28; a two-page proposal; a bibliography; an outline; an oral presentation of your project. Rough drafts of the final paper are due on Monday, Nov. 23. You will be share them and discuss them in peer review groups. Final paper is due Dec. 14. Participation in seminar discussions is also a crucial requirement of the course.

READING: We will be using the text, Evelyne Lever, Marie-Antoinette: The Last Queen of France (NY, 2000), which you can buy online. It has also been placed on reserve at H.C. White. Other required articles and documents are in a packet available at the Copy Center at 6120 Sewell Hall (the Social Sciences Building) or on reserve in H.C. White. Except for the Lever text, all of the collective reading is contained in this course packet.

Writing, Research, and The History Lab: New this semester, the History Lab is a resource center where experts (PhD students) can aid you as you write your history papers. We will devote considerable course time to discussing writing, and I will be meeting with you individually to talk about research and writing. In addition, you can take advantage of one-on-one consultations with the History Lab staff at any stage in the writing process. Sign up for a one-on-one consultation online: <http://go.wisc.edu/hlab>.

Week 1: (Sept. 14) MARIE-ANTOINETTE BECOMES QUEEN

Jacques Revel, "Marie Antoinette," in A Critical Dictionary of the French Revolution, ed.

François Furet and Mona Ozouf, transl. Arthur Goldhammer, 252-63

** Evelyne Lever, Marie-Antoinette: The Last Queen of France (NY, 2000), 3-146

Margaret Rigas, "Marie-Antoinette: *Madame Deficit* or Victim of Circumstance? A Historiography of the Image of France's Most Infamous Queen," Elizabeth Cady Stanton Student Research Conference, Villanova University, 2103, <http://journals.villanova.edu/index.php/ecs/article/view/1546/1361>

Letters by or about Marie Antoinette in Olivier Bernier, ed. Secrets of Marie Antoinette, 30-37, 198-201, 226-227, 232-233

Week 2: (Sept. 21) QUEEN ON THE HOT SEAT: COURT POLITICS, AUSTROPHOBIA, & THE DIAMOND NECKLACE AFFAIR

** Evelyne Lever, Marie-Antoinette: The Last Queen of France, 146 -207

Thomas E. Kaiser, "Who's Afraid of Marie-Antoinette? Diplomacy, Austrophobia, and the Queen," French History, 14 (2000): 241-71

Sarah Maza, "The Diamond Necklace Affair Revisited (1785-1786): The Case of the Missing Queen," in Dena Goodman, ed., Writings on the Body of a Queen, 73-97

Jeanne Louise Henriette Genet, Madame Campan, The Private Life of Marie Antoinette: A Confidante's Account, 197-215.

Chantal Thomas, The Wicked Queen: The Origins of the Myth of Marie-Antoinette, 203-15, 239-46

Week 3: (Sept. 28) EARLY FRENCH REVOLUTION: THE OCTOBER DAYS

If you are not familiar with the history of the French Revolution, read this overview in course reader:

Lynn Hunt, The Making of the West, vol B, 1320-1830, 618-20, 623-638

** Evelyne Lever, Marie-Antoinette: The Last Queen of France, 209-241

Olwen Hufton, Women and the Limits of Citizenship in the French Revolution, 4-18, 156-159

Henriette Lucie Dillon, marquise de La Tour du Pin-Gouvernet, Memoirs, 124-35

Account by Charles Elie, marquis de Ferrières [1741-1804], from his Memoirs, in The French Revolution, ed. Georges Pernoud and Sabine Flaissier, 61-66

"Stanislaus Maillard Describes the Women's March to Versailles," in Women in Revolutionary Paris: 1789-1795, 36-42

Depositions by Jeanne Martin, nurse, and Françoise Rolin, flower girl, in The French Revolution, ed. Philip Dawson, 59-62 and 63-6

*** **SHORT PAPER DUE AT CLASS, Monday, Sept. 28** – Based on your reading of the primary sources, how would you interpret the October Days and how convincing are the historical accounts by Lever and Hufton?

Here is a helpful chapter on writing: Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 8th ed. (Boston, 2015), 51-81 (in packet at end with writing material)

Week 4: (Oct. 5) THE QUEEN & WAR AS THE REVOLUTION RADICALIZES

** Evelyn Lever, Marie-Antoinette: The Last Queen of France, 242-291

Timothy Tackett, The Coming of the Terror in the French Revolution, 165-191

Marie Antoinette, Memoir to her brother, Emperor Leopold on "Ending the French Revolution," Sept. 8, 1791, in Paul Beik, ed. The French Revolution, 176-185

Emperor Leopold von Habsburg, "The Padua Circular," & Camille Desmoulins, "A Journalistic Attack on the Queen," *Les Révolutions de France et de Brabant*, no. 18 (June 1791).

We will have a library visit this week outside of class.

Week 5: (Oct. 12) THE QUEEN ON TRIAL

** Evelyn Lever, Marie-Antoinette: The Last Queen of France, 293-309

Lynn Hunt, "The Many Bodies of Marie Antoinette: Political Pornography and the Problem of the Feminine in the French Revolution" in Writings on the Body of a Queen, 117-138

Authentic Trial at Large of Marie-Antoinette, Late Queen of France before the Revolutionary Tribunal at Paris... To Which are Prefixed Her Life, and a Verbal Copy of her Private Examination Previous To her Public Trial (London, 1793), 3-25, 36-40.

Edmund Burke on Marie Antoinette, excerpt from his Reflections on the Revolution in France (<http://www.bartleby.com/24/3/6.html>) in packet

Week 6: (Oct. 19) LEGACY & MEMORY: THE EXAMPLE OF FILM

Clips from Two Films: W.S. Van Dyck's *Marie Antoinette* (1938) and Sofia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette* (2006)

Laura Mason, "'We're Just Little People Louis: Marie-Antoinette on Film,'" in Dena Goodman, ed., Writings on the Body of a Queen (New York, 2003), 239-251

Suzanne Ferriss & Mallory Young, "Marie-Antoinette, Fashion, Third Wave Feminism, and Chick Culture," Literature Film Quarterly 38 (2010): 98-116.

Robert Rosenstone, selection from Visions of the Past: The Challenge of Film to Our Idea of History

Week 7: (Oct. 26) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

*** 2 PAGE PROPOSAL = description of topic, key primary sources, and central questions, due at your meeting with me.

Week 8: (Nov. 2) WRITING A RESEARCH PAPER

Sample Student Paper

Sample introductions

Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 8th ed. (Boston, 2015), 51-81

We will have a visit from a Writing Instructor from the History Lab.

*** BIBLIOGRAPHY of primary and secondary sources due Monday, Nov. 2 at class.

Week 9: (Nov. 9) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

*** OUTLINE due at your meeting with me.

Week 10: (Nov. 16) ORAL PRESENTATIONS

We will have short presentations of your research and will also discuss sample conclusions.

Read Sample Conclusions in course packet.

*** Five-minute oral presentation of your project.

Week 11: (Nov. 23) EXCHANGE OF DRAFTS

*** Rough drafts due in class on MONDAY, Nov. 23.

Week 12: (Nov. 30) DISCUSSION OF ROUGH DRAFTS

For these meetings (TBA), you will have read drafts and prepared written comments for the students in your group.

Week 13: (Dec. 7) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Week 14: (Dec. 14) WRAP UP CLASS

*** Final Paper due on MONDAY, Dec. 14