

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester II, 2019-2020

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

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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 recent work on the French Revolution, and various approaches to 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 6120 Sewell Hall (Social Sciences).

Requirements: 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.

Credit Hours and Work Load: The credit standard for this 3-credit course is met by an expectation of a total of 135 hours of student engagement with the course's learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit or 9 hours per week), which include regularly scheduled meeting times (group seminar meetings of 115 minutes per week), dedicated time reading, writing, individual consultations with the instructor, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes: Students will increase their expertise in early modern and French revolutionary history; develop their ability to think theoretically and engage with diverse historiographical methods; deepen their written and oral skills as professional historians; analyze and reflect on deep-rooted and varied human issues, still present today, such as, Why is so difficult to create democracy and equality? Is violence ever justified to overcome oppression or injustice? What are the responsibilities of historians in presenting and interpreting complex historical problems?

**WEEK 1 (JAN. 22): 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. 29): URBAN CULTURE & SOCIETY**

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

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

**WEEK 3 (FEB. 5): ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY: POWER, SPACE, AND GENDER**

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, 166-70, 219-22

David Kammerling Smith, "State Formation in Early Modern France: New Directions" (draft used by permission of the author; do not circulate)

Chandra Mukerji, "Space and Political Pedagogy at the Gardens of Versailles," Public Culture 24 (2012); 509-534

Sarah Hanley, "Engendering the State: Family Formation and State Building in Early Modern France," French Historical Studies 16 (1989): 1-27.

**WEEK 4 (FEB. 12): SMUGGLING, ENLIGHTENMENT, & GLOBAL UNDERWORLD**

Michael Kwass, Contraband: Louis Mandrin and the Making of a Global Underground (Cambridge, Mass., 2014). 1-69, 87-138, 252-317, 354-365.

Lynn Hunt, Inventing Human Rights (N.Y.: Norton, 2007), 15-34, 70-112

{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}

**WEEK 5 (FEB. 19): COLONIZATION, RACE, & FAMILY IN ST-DOMINGUE & JAMAICA**

Trevor Burnard and John Garrigus, The Plantation Machine: Atlantic Capitalism in French Saint-Domingue and British Jamaica (Philadelphia, 2016), 1-50, 101-137, 164-191 & notes

Jennifer Palmer, Intimate Bonds: Family and Slavery in the French Atlantic (Philadelphia, 2016), 1-18, 70-97, 129-157, & notes

**\*\*PAPER DUE, Friday, Feb. 21 (Box #5013)**

**WEEK 6 (FEB. 26): 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

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

Colin Jones, "The Great Chain of Buying: Medical Advertisement, the Bourgeois Public Sphere, and the Origins of the French Revolution," American Historical Review 101 (1996): 13-40.

### **WEEK 7 (MAR. 4): THE ORIGINS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION**

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

\*\* Georges Lefebvre, The Coming of the French Revolution, trans. R. R. Palmer (Princeton, 2005, orig. ed. 1939), entire (If you need to skim, skim chaps. 8, & 12-15. Be sure to read Conclusion.)

T.C.W. Blanning, The French Revolution : Class War or Cultural Clash 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London, 1998), 1-51

### **WEEK 8 (MAR. 11): PEASANTS, URBAN DWELLERS, NEWS, AND POLITICS**

Jill Maciak Walshaw, A Show of Hands for the Republic: Opinion, Information, and Repression in Eighteenth-Century Rural France (Rochester, NY: 2014), 1-131

Robert Darnton, "An Early Information Society: News and the Media in Eighteenth-Century Paris," American Historical Review number (2000): 1-35

Steven Kaplan, The Famine Plot Persuasion in Eighteenth-Century France, published as Transaction of the American Philosophical Society 72 (1982), 1-26, 52-72

### **WEEK 9 (MAR. 25): THE EARLY REVOLUTION & PARISIAN POLITICS**

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

\*\*Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 35-87

\*\* David Andress, Massacre at the Champs de Mars (Woodbridge, UK: 2000), Read 1-38, skim 39-60, read 61-108, skim 109-135, read 136-224

### **WEEK 10 (APRIL 1): REVOLUTIONARY RADICALIZATION & POLITICAL CULTURAL APPROACHES TO TIME & GENDER**

NB: This week, we will go over the political trajectory of the radical years (1792-94).

\*\*Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 87-126, 159-184

Rhys Jones, "Time Warps during the French Revolution," Manuscript in typescript (Do not circulate; not in packet)

Lynn Hunt, The Family Romance of the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1992), xiii—xvi, 1-16, 53-123

**\*\*PAPER DUE on Monday, April 6**

### **WEEK 11 (APRIL 8): INTERPRETING THE TERROR**

Ronald Schechter, A Genealogy of Terror in Eighteenth-Century France (Chicago, 2018), vii-x, 1-17, 38-77, 124-205, also notes: 209-214, 219-232, 240-260

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

### **WEEK 12 (APRIL 15): GENDER, ECONOMY, & DEMOCRACY**

Katie Jarvis, Politics in the Marketplace: Work, Gender, and Citizenship in Revolutionary France (N.Y., 2019), 1-80, 104-166, 230-239 & notes

Joan Scott, "A Woman Who Has Only Paradoxes to Offer: Olympe de Gouges' Claims for the Rights of Women," in Rebel Daughters ed. Sara E. Melzer and Leslie W. Rabine (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1992), 102-120

Mita Choudhury, "The French Revolution, #MeToo, and Embodying Rights," *H-France Salon* (2019) 11:2 <https://h-france.net/h-france-salon-volume-11-2019/> (in packet)

### **WEEK 13 (APRIL 22): THE DIRECTORY & BABEUF'S TRIAL**

Because this week is under construction, not all of the reading is in the course packet.

\*\*Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 127-142

Laura Mason, The Last Revolutionary: The Conspiracy and Trial of Gracchus Babeuf (forthcoming 2020), ms. used by permission of author, pages TBD

Jean-Luc Chappey, "The New Elites. Questions about Political, Social, and Cultural Reconstruction after the Terror," Oxford Handbook of the French Revolution (Oxford, 2015), 556-572.

Andrew Jinchill, Reimagining Politics after the Terror: The Republican Origins of French Liberalism (Ithaca, NY, 2008), 1-25, 108-140

or Marc Belissa and Yannick Bosc, Le Directoire: La République sans démocratie (Paris, 2018), 9-22, 51-78

### **WEEK 14 (APRIL 29): INTERPRETING REVOLUTION, ABOLITION, & CITIZENSHIP IN 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.

Jeremy Popkin, "A New Look at the Events of 20 June 1793," Journal of Haitian Studies 15 (2009): 152-67

Paul Friedland, "Every Island is Not Haiti: The French Revolution in the Windward Islands," in Rethinking the Ages of Revolutions: France and the Birth of the Modern World, ed. David A. Bell & Yair Mintzker (N.Y.: 2018), 41-78

Lorelle Semley, To Be Free and French: Citizenship in France's Atlantic Empire (N.Y., 2017), 3-68

**\*\* FINAL PAPER DUE on Mon., May 4**