

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester II, 2006-2007

History 707: THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

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Humanities 5124

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of France from the seventeenth century through the French Revolution. We will pay particular attention to recent historiographical debates over method. We will study the Annales school, various approaches to the French Revolution, and recent work on popular culture and religion, state-building, colonization, 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 packet of articles and documents available in the Humanities Copy Center at 1650 Humanities. In a few cases, you will need to read material on reserve when the chunk of a book was too long to copy (for copyright reasons) and too short to merit buying the book.

Each student will choose between two different options for the course's written work: 1/ write three medium-length papers (c. 10 pages) 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.

WEEK 1 (Jan. 24): INTRODUCTION

Those students who do not have much background in early modern French history may wish to use this period to read in surveys, such as the Gail Bossenga essay on "Society" and the Julian Swann essay on "The State & Political Culture," both in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France (ordered as recommended); Robin Briggs, Early Modern France (survey, mainly 17th c.); James Collins, The State in Early Modern France; Alfred Cobban, History of Modern France, 1715-1799, vol. 1 (mainly 18th c. political history); or Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon (lively history).

Week 2 (Jan. 31): PEASANTRY: ANNALISTE APPROACH & HISTOIRE DES MENTALITES

** Emmanuel LeRoy Ladurie, The Peasants of Languedoc, Read and skim enough of this book to get its essence and method. I suggest 3-8, 51-83, 132-171, 191-210, 251-311, but look at other parts of the book as well.

** Histories: French Constructions of the Past, ed. Jacques Revel and Lynn Hunt, 1-63, 89-98, 106-114, 423-26. You may want to read the introductory pages here before reading LeRoy Ladurie.

Robert Darnton, Great Cat Massacre: Episodes in French Cultural History, 3-43, 62-65

WEEK 3 (Feb. 7): HOW STRONG WAS ABSOLUTISM?: LOUIS XIV

** William Doyle, "Politics: Louis XIV," in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France (Oxford, 2001), 169-94

Sharon Kettering, French Society, 1589-1715 (Essex, 2001), 81-95

William Beik, "A Social Interpretation of the Reign of Louis XIV," in L'état ou le roi: Les fondations de la modernité monarchique en France (XIVe-XVIIe siècles), ed. Neithard Bulst et al. (Paris, 1996), 145-160

William Beik, Absolutism and Society in Seventeenth-Century France: State and Power in Provincial Languedoc (Cambridge, Eng., 1985), 279-339

John J. Hurt, Louis XIV and the Parlements: The Assertion of Royal Authority (Manchester, 2002), ix-xv, 1-16, 49-59, 67-94

WEEK 4 (Feb. 14): SHAKY ABSOLUTISM: THE FRONDE AND BEYOND

Richard Dunn, Age of Religious Wars, 1559-1689 (N.Y., 1970), 128-37

Jay M. Smith, The Culture of Merit: Nobility, Royal Service, and the Making of the Absolute Monarchy in France, 1600-1789, (Ann Arbor, 1996), 1-10, 93-190

Katherine Crawford, Perilous Performances: Gender and Regency in Early Modern France (Cambridge, Mass., 2004), 1-12, 98-136

Michel Foucault, "Governmentality" in The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality, ed. Graham Burchell, Colin Gordon, and Peter Miller (Chicago, 1991), 87-104

Week 5 (Feb. 21): RELIGION, GENDER, CULTURAL CONFLICT, & COLONIZATION

Keith Luria, Sacred Boundaries: Religious Coexistence and Conflict in Early-Modern France (Washington, DC, 2005), xiii-xxxvii, 103-42, 193-245

** If you are unfamiliar with France's early colonial history, read Pierre Boule and D. Gillian Thompson, "France Overseas" in Doyle, ed. Old Regime France, 105-138

Natalie Zemon Davis, Women on the Margins: Three Seventeenth-Century Lives (Cambridge, Mass., 1995), 63-139

Allan Greer, "Colonial Saints: Gender, Race, and Hagiography in New France," The William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser., Vol. 57, No. 2. (Apr., 2000), pp. 323-348 (online)

WEEK 6 (Feb. 28): PARIS AND POPULAR CULTURE

** David Garrioch, The Making of Revolutionary Paris (Berkeley, 2002), 1-11, skim 15-63, read 64-206, 260-82

Jennifer Jones, Sexing La Mode: Gender, Fashion and Commercial Culture in Old Regime France (Oxford, 2004), 145-177

** Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, trans. Arther Goldhammer (Cambridge, Mass., 1998, orig. ed. 1993), 608-673

**PAPER DUE, Friday, March 2 (Box #5031)

WEEK 7 (Mar. 7): EVOLUTION OF THE MONARCHY IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

** For political background, I recommend Julian Swann, "Politics: Louis XV" in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France (Oxford, 2001), 195-222

** Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 1-40, skim 41-75, read 209-286, 320-352, 449-482

Lisa Jane Graham, If the King Only Knew: Seditious Speech in the Reign of Louis XV (Charlottesville, Va., 2000), 1-23, 139-181, 213-267

WEEK 8 (Mar. 14): ENLIGHTENMENT, PRINT CULTURE, AND REPRESENTATION

** Histories: French Constructions of the Past, ed. Revel and Hunt, 544-58, 479-91

Roger Chartier, The Cultural Uses of Print in Early Modern France, 3-12, 145-200

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

** Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 420-448, 519-547

WEEK 9 (Mar. 21): ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE ORIGINS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Keith M. Baker, "On the Problem of the Ideological Origins of the French Revolution," & "Public Opinion as Political Invention," from his Inventing the French Revolution, reprinted respectively in The French Revolution: The Essential Readings, ed. Ronald Schechter (Oxford, 2001), 52-74, and in Jones, ed., The French Revolution, 128-66

Robert Darnton, "The Forbidden Best-sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France," in The French Revolution, ed. Schechter, 106-137

Sarah Maza, "The Diamond Necklace Affair Revisited (1785-1786): The Case of the Missing Queen," in Eroticism and the Body Politic, ed. Lynn Hunt (Baltimore, 1991), 63-89

** Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution, 1-21, 138-148

Week 10 (Mar. 28): THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ORIGINS OF REVOLUTION: TOCQUEVILLE, MARXISTS, & REVISIONISTS

** Peter McPhee, The French Revolution, skim 1-22, read 24-49

Albert Soboul, "The French Revolution in the History of the Contemporary World," in The

French Revolution: Recent Debates and New Controversies, ed. Gary Kates, 23-43

William Doyle, Origins of the French Revolution (N.Y., third ed. 1999), 5-41

Colin Jones, "The Bourgeois Revolution Revivified: 1789 and Social Change," in Rewriting the French Revolution, ed. Colin Lucas; reprinted in Jones, ed. The French Revolution, 72-99

** Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution, 77-138, 169-79, 203-211

** PAPER DUE on Fri., March 30

Week 11 (April 11): OVERVIEW OF REVOLUTION & FURET'S INTERPRETATION

** Peter McPhee, The French Revolution, 50-203

François Furet, Interpreting the French Revolution, 1-79 (On reserve in HC White)

Week 12 (April 18): REVOLUTION IN POLITICAL CULTURE

Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1984), 19-51

Lynn Hunt, The Family Romance of the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1992), 53-88

** Mona Ozouf on festivals in Histories: French Constructions of the Past, ed. Revel and Hunt, 408-13

Mona Ozouf, Festivals and the French Revolution, trans. Alan Sheridan (Cambridge, Mass., 1998, orig ed. 1976), 159-196

Susan Maslan, Revolutionary Acts: Theater Democracy and the French Revolution (Baltimore, 2005), 1-73

Week 13 (April 25): INTERPRETING THE TERROR & REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE

Lynn Hunt, Review of David Andress, The Terror and Ruth Scurr, Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution in The Nation

David Andress, The Terror: The Merciless War for Freedom in Revolutionary France (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), read 1-7, skim 8-115, read 116-377

Colin Lucas, "Revolutionary Violence, the People and the Terror," in The French Revolution and the Creation of Modern Political Culture, vol. 4, The Terror, ed. Keith Baker (Oxford, 1994), 57-79

Week 14 (May 2) : THE REVOLUTION AND GENDER

Joan Scott, "French Feminists and the Rights of 'Man': Olympe de Gouges's Declarations," History Workshop 28 (1989): 1-21

Carla Hesse, "The Cultural Contradictions of Feminism in the French Revolution," in The Age of Cultural Revolutions: Britain and France, 1750-1820 (Berkeley, Calif., 2002), 190-202

Ewa Lajer-Burcharth, Necklines: The Art of Jacques-Louis David after the Terror (New Haven, 1999), 130-235

Elizabeth Colwill, "Women's Empire and the Sovereignty of Many in *La Décade philosophique*, 1794-1807," Eighteenth-Century Studies 29 (1996): 265-85

Week 15 (May 9): REVOLUTION AND COLONIZATION: THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION

John D. Garrigus, Before Haiti: Race and Citizenship in French Saint-Domingue, 1-19, 141-70, 227-263

** Laurent Dubois, Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution (Cambridge, Mass., 2004), read 1-7, skim 8-59, read 60-193, skim 194-279, read 280-306

** Final PAPER DUE on Monday, May 14