

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester II, 1989-90

History 320

EARLY MODERN FRANCE, 1550-1815

Prof. Desan
5124 Humanities

Reading:

Robin Briggs, Early Modern France, 1560-1715.

Alfred Cobban, A History of Modern France, Volume 1: 1715-1799.

Molière, Middle-Class Gentlemen.

Montaigne, Selected Essays.

Rousseau, The Discourse on Inequality and the Social Contract.

Albert Soboul, A Short History of the French Revolution.

The books should be available at the University Bookstore and at Brown's. A xeroxed reader (required) is available at Kinko's at 620 University Avenue. These readings are marked (R).

Discussion sections will be held every other Friday. All students will take a one-hour exam (March 2) and a final exam. A paper (3-5 pages for 3-credit students and 7-9 pages for 4-credit students) will be due on April 12. There will also be two films shown during this course: "The Return of Martin Guerre" in Week 2 and "The Flight to Varennes" in Week 13.

Week 1 (January 22-26): INTRODUCTION: THE DIVERSITY OF FRANCE

Week 2 (January 29-February 2): RURAL LIFE

** Section

Reading: Robin Briggs, Early Modern France, 1560-1715, 35-76

Selections from N. Z. Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre (R)

**I will show the film "The Return of Martin Guerre" this week.

Week 3 (February 5-9): THE FRENCH RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION

Reading: Briggs, pp. 1-34

Rabelais; Dunn, Religious Wars; "Vindiciae contra tyrannos" (R)

Week 4 (February 12-17): WITCHCRAFT/ THE NEW MONARCHY

**Section

Reading: Montaigne, Selected Essays

Documents on images of women and on witchcraft (R)

Week 5 (February 19-23): PEASANT REVOLTS AND THE FRONDE

Reading: Briggs, pp. 77-211

Dunn Selection on the Rise of Absolutism (R)

Week 6 (February 26-March 2): SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY THOUGHT

* MIDTERM, Friday, March 2

Reading: Selections from Descartes and Pascal (R)

Week 7 (March 5-9): SOCIETY AND CULTURE UNDER LOUIS XIV

**Section

Reading: Moliere, Middle-Class Gentlemen

Selection from Bossuet, from Louis XIV's Letters and from Madame de Sevigné, selected letters (R)

Week 8 (March 12-16): 18TH-C. POLITICS, ECONOMY, & DIPLOMACY

Reading: A. Cobban, A History of Modern France, 1715-1799, 1-81
O. Hufton, "Women and the Family Economy in the 18th-Century" (R)

Week 9 (March 26-30): THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Reading: Cobban, pp. 82-90

Excerpts: Montesquieu, Persian Letters and The Encyclopedia (R)
Robert Darnton, "The High Enlightenment and Low-life Literature in Pre-revolutionary France" (R)

Week 10 (April 2-6): THE ENLIGHTENMENT II: ROUSSEAU

**Section

Reading: Rousseau, The Discourse on the Origins of Inequality and the Social Contract (pages to be announced)

Week 11: (April 9-11): REFORM VERSUS REVOLUTION

Reading: Cobban, pp. 90-151

*PAPER DUE on Wednesday April 11. Paper topics will be based on readings.

Week 12 (April 16-20): THE OUTBREAK OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

**Section

Reading: Cobban, pp. 152-200

Albert Soboul, A Short History of the French Revolution, pp. 1-85
Revolution Documents: Sieyès and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (R)

Week 13 (April 23-27): THE RADICAL REVOLUTION

Reading: Cobban, pp. 200-241

Soboul, pp. 86-153

Revolution Documents: Olympe de Gouges and Robespierre (R).

**I will show the movie "La Nuit de Varennes" this week.

Week 14 (April 30-May 4): THE DIRECTORY/ REVOLUTIONARY LEGACY

**Section

Reading: Cobban, pp. 241-266

Soboul, pp. 153-168

Excerpt from James Miller, Rousseau: Dreamer of Democracy (R)

Levy & Applewhite, "Women and Political Revolution in Paris" (R) ,

Week 15: (May 7-11) NAPOLEON

Reading: Selections from G. Wright on Napoleon (R)

Final Exam