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Winter 2007

Hist 651: Studies in Modern French History

This class serves as an introduction to recent historical work on nineteenth-century French history. The central themes of the nineteenth century—revolution, modernity, state-building, imperial expansion, urban growth, religion and politics, mass culture—are treated here through recent works whose innovations work at a number of different levels, whether it be social historians working within the idiom of cultural history, cultural historians borrowing interpretive strategies from specialists in the interpretation of visual sources, historians of the state seeking to expand the notion of political culture, or historians of France's overseas empires seeking to expand our understanding of French history's global context.

Requirements

Attendance and Discussion

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate actively in discussion.

Oral Presentations and Bibliographies

Each class meeting will begin with a brief oral presentation by one or two students, who will also lead the discussion for the day. Those giving the presentations will be expected to do somewhat more reading than the other students on that day, and they should also prepare a short bibliography (1-2 pp.) on the topic for the week, which will be photocopied and distributed to each member of the class.

Papers

Each student will write 2 papers for the class: a book review (c. 1000 words, or 4-5 pp.) and a longer historiographical essay on a topic of the student's own choosing (c. 20 pp.). The book review is due on Friday, February 23. The final paper is due on Wednesday, April 18. I would like each student to speak with me at least once about the topic for their final paper before the mid-point of the semester.

Readings

The following books have been placed on order at Shaman Drum bookstore on State St:

William Sewell, *Work and Revolution in France*
Suzanne Desan, *The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France*
Laurent Dubois, *The Colony of Citizens*
David Bell, *The First Total War*
Paul Rabinow, *French Modern*

Jacques Ranciere, *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*
David Harvey, *Paris, Capital of Modernity*
Sudhir Hazareesingh, *The Saint-Napoleon*
Hollis Clayson, *Paris in Despair*
Suzanne Kaufmann, *Consuming Visions*
J.P. Daughton, *An Empire Divided*
Mary-Louise Roberts, *Disruptive Acts*
Vanessa Schwarz, *Spectacular Realities*

Schedule of Classes

Week 1 (Jan 8-12) Revolution and the Meaning of Labor

Reading: William Sewell, *Work and Revolution in France*

Week 2 (Jan 15-19)

NO CLASS Monday, MLK Day.

Week 3 (Jan 22-26) Revolution, Family, and the Public Life of the Private Sphere

Suzanne Desan, *The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France*

Week 4 (Jan 29-Feb 2) Revolution, Equality and Race

Laurent Dubois, *The Colony of Citizens*

Week 5 (Feb 5-9) Revolution, Equality, and Education

Jacques Ranciere, *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*

Week 6 (Feb 12-16) War, Modernity and the Napoleonic State

David Bell, *The First Total War*

Week 7 (Feb 19-23) Empire, Modernity and the Nation-State

Paul Rabinow, *French Modern*

WINTER BREAK, Feb 24-Mar 4

Week 8 (Mar 5-9) Modernity and the City

David Harvey, *Paris, Capital of Modernity*

Week 9 (Mar 12-17) Representations of Sovereignty in the Second Empire

Sudhir Hazareesingh, *The Saint-Napoleon: Celebrations of Sovereignty in Nineteenth-Century France*.

Week 10 (Mar 19-24) Representations of Crisis during the Siege of Paris

Hollis Clayson, *Paris in Despair: Art and Everyday Life Under Siege (1870-1871)*.

Week 11 (Mar 26-30) Religion and Empire

J.P. Daughton, *An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism, 1880-1914*.

Week 12 (Apr 2-6) Religion and Consumer Culture

Suzanne Kaufmann, *Consuming Visions: Mass Culture and the Lourdes Shrine*

Week 13 (Apr 9-13) Mass Culture in Fin-de-Siècle Paris

Vanessa Schwartz, *Spectacular Realities: Early Mass Culture in Fin-de-Siècle Paris*.

Week 14 (Apr 16-17) The New Woman in Fin-de-Siècle France

Mary-Louise Roberts, *Disruptive Acts: The New Woman in Fin-de-Siècle France*.