

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester II, 2011-2012

**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 and Napoleon. We will pay particular attention to recent historiographical debates over method. We will study various approaches to the French Revolution, and recent work on 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 crucial packet of all the other articles and chapters. It is available in the Humanities Copy Center at 1650 Humanities.

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.

**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 selected essays in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France (useful individual essays); Robin Briggs, Early Modern France (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); or Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon (lively history).

**WEEK 2 (JAN. 31): THE SOCIAL WORLD OF OLD REGIME FRANCE**

\*\*William Beik, A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France (Cambridge, UK, 2009), 1-64, 224-73

\*\*Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, trans. Arthur Goldhammer (Cambridge, Mass., 1998, orig. ed. 1993), 75-139

Fernand Braudel, Civilization and Capitalism, 15th-18th Century, 3 volumes, trans. Siân Reynolds (NY, 1981-84, orig. ed. 1979), vol. 2, The Wheels of Commerce, table of contents, 21-23, 458-514

**WEEK 3 (FEB. 7): THE EVOLVING ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY**

Julian Swann, APolitics: Louis XV@ in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France, 1648-1788 (Oxford, 2001), 195-222

\*\*William Beik, A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France, 313-341

\*\*Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 209-419

**WEEK 4 (FEB. 14): URBAN CULTURE & SOCIETY**

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

\*\*William Beik, A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France, 98-132

\*\*Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 641-73

### **WEEK 5 (FEB. 21): THE NOBILITY**

\*\*William Beik, A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France, 66-96, 273-87

Brian Sandberg, Warrior Pursuits: Noble Culture and Civil Conflict in Early Modern France (Baltimore, 2010), xv-xxvii, 79-113, 151-185, 253-92

\*\*David Bell, The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as we Know It (Boston, 2007), 1-51

NB: This week we will most likely meet Tuesday evening and have a visit from Brian Sandberg.

**\*\*PAPER DUE, Friday, Feb. 24 (Box #5013)**

### **WEEK 6 (FEB. 28): COLONIZATION & RACE IN ST-DOMINGUE**

\*\*John Garrigus, Before Haiti: Race and Citizenship in French Saint-Domingue (NY, 2006), 1-194, skim 195-225

Stewart R. King, Blue Coat or Powdered Wig: Free People of Color in Pre-revolutionary Saint-Domingue (Athens, GA., 2001), 158-201

### **WEEK 7 (MAR. 6): APPROACHES TO THE AGE OF LETTERS**

\*\*Dena Goodman, Becoming A Woman in the Age of Letters (Ithaca, NY, 2009), 1-99, skim 100-132, read 133-198, skim 199-244, read 247-73, 307-337

Robert Darnton, "The Forbidden Best-sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France," in The French Revolution: The Essential Readings, ed. Ronald Schechter (Oxford, 2001), 106-137

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

### **WEEK 8 (MAR. 13): THE ORIGINS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION**

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

\*\*Peter McPhee, The French Revolution (Oxford, 2002), 25-49

Jack A. Goldstone, "The Social Origins of the Revolution Revisited," & 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), 67-103, 165-197

John Markoff, "Peasants and their Grievances" in The Origins of the French Revolution, ed. Peter R. Campbell (NY, 2006), 239-267

### **WEEK 9 (MAR. 20): THE EARLY REVOLUTION: THE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY**

\*\*Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight (Cambridge, Mass., 2003), 1-56, 83-223

\*\*Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 35-86

**\*\*PAPER DUE on Monday, March 26**

### **WEEK 10 (MAR 27): REVOLUTIONARY RADICALIZATION & FURET'S INTERPRETATION**

\*\*Peter McPhee, The French Revolution (Oxford, 2002), 89-153

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

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

### **WEEK 11 (APRIL 10): INTERPRETING THE TERROR**

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

\*\*Dan Edelstein, The Terror of Natural Right: Republicanism, the Cult of Nature, and the French Revolution (Chicago, 2009), 1-25, 45-86, 126-275

### **WEEK 12 (APRIL 17): POLITICAL CULTURE**

Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1984), 19-51, 87-119  
Jan Goldstein, The Post-Revolutionary Self: Politics and Psyche in France, 1750-1850 (Cambridge, Mass., 2005), 1-17, 60-100  
Antoine de Baecque, Glory and Terror: Seven Deaths under the French Revolution (N.Y. & London, 2001, orig. ed. 1997), 121-142

### **WEEK 13 (APRIL 24): THERMIDOR AND THE DIRECTORY**

\*\*Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 127-142  
\*\*McPhee, The French Revolution, 154-204  
Bronislaw Baczko, Ending the Terror: The French Revolution after Robespierre (Cambridge, Eng., 1994, orig. ed. 1989), xi-xii, 32-45, 49-53, 224-265  
James Livesey, Making Democracy in the French Revolution (Cambridge, Mass., 2001), 167-197

### **WEEK 14 (MAY 1): NAPOLEON**

\*\*Martyn Lyons, Napoleon Bonaparte and the Legacy of the French Revolution (NY, 1994), read 60-76, skim 77-110, read 111-128, skim 129-41, read 142-259, skim 260-77, read 278-300  
\*\*David Bell, The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as we Know It (Boston, 2007), 186-301

### **WEEK 15 (MAY 8): REVOLUTION IN THE COLONIES**

Caroline Fick, "The French Revolution in Saint Domingue: A Triumph or a Failure?" in A Turbulent Time: The French Revolution and the Greater Caribbean, ed. David Barry Gaspar and David Patrick Geggus, 51-74  
Laurent Dubois, "Our Three Colors: The King, the Republic and the Political Culture of Slave Revolution in Saint-Domingue," Historical Reflections 29:1 (Spring 2003): 83-102  
"Freedwomen's Familial Politics: Marriage, War and Rites of Registry in Post-Emancipation Saint-Domingue," in Gender, War, and Politics: Perspectives, 1775 – 1820, ed. Karen Hagemann, Gisela Mettele, and Jane Rendall (Houndmills and Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2010), pp. 71-89  
Miranda Spieler, "Abolition and Reenslavement in the Caribbean: The Revolution in French Guiana," in The French Revolution in Global Perspective, ed. Suzanne Desan, Lynn Hunt, and William Max Nelson (Ithaca, forthcoming 2012) (I will email this to you.)

**\*\* FINAL PAPER DUE on Mon., May 14**