

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department of History

Semester II, 2011-2012

THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

History 358

Office Hours: Thurs. 1:30-3:30 PM

5120 Humanities

Prof. Suzanne Desan

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T.A.: Jill Slaughter

Reading:

Laurent Dubois, Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution

Paul Johnson, Napoleon

Peter McPhee, The French Revolution, 1789-1799

Jacques Ménétra, Journal of My Life

Montesquieu, The Persian Letters

Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of France from 1660 to 1815, from the absolutist monarchy of Louis XIV through the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era. After examining the structure of Old Regime society and government, we will explore the revolutionary challenge to that order. Particular themes will include absolutist monarchy vs. revolutionary republicanism; the aristocratic world of court; popular politics and the lives of ordinary men and women; the French colonial system and slavery; and the attempt by Enlightenment philosophes and then the French revolutionaries to rethink and transform their world; revolutionary politics, thought, and social reform; and Napoleon's effort to create a massive European empire.

Reading: The above books have been ordered and should be available at the University Bookstore and on reserve in H. C. White library. They are marked with an asterisk (*) in the assignments below. **There is also a READER of Xeroxed articles and documents available at the Copy Center in 1650 Humanities and on reserve. The reader is required. Readings from the reader are marked "R." Students will have the opportunity to discuss in the readings in weekly discussion sections, which are a required part of the course.

Requirements: All students will take an in-class exam on Tues., March 13 and a final exam. All students will also write two papers: 1.) a 4-page paper due Mon., Feb. 27 (based on in-course readings) 2.) a second paper due on Mon., Apr. 30: 4-5 pages for 3-credit students and 9-10 pages for 4-credit students. The second papers will be based on primary sources, and you will be able to choose or create a topic from any time period of the course. Four-credit students will do research beyond the course reading. Final grades will be based as follows: for 4-credit students: 10% first paper; 20% discussion & section participation; 20% midterm exam; 25% paper; 25% final exam; for 3-credit students: 15% first paper; 20% discussion & section participation; 20% midterm exam; 20% paper; 25% final exam.

WEEK 1 (Jan. 24-26): INTRODUCTION: FRANCE & ABSOLUTISM UNDER LOUIS XIV

Reading: William Doyle, "Politics: Louis XIV" in Old Regime France, ed. W. Doyle, 169-194

Bossuet, passage from Politics drawn from the Very Word of Holy Scripture (R)

"Louis XIV's Letter to His Heirs," in Brian Tierney et al., ed. Great Issues in Western Civilization (N.Y., 1992, 4th ed.), II: 11-16, 21-23 (R)

WEEK 2 (Jan. 31-Feb 2): ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY & THE REGENCY OF LOUIS XV

Reading: Julian Swann, "Politics: Louis XV," in Old Regime France, ed William Doyle, 194-205

(NB: you will read the rest of this essay later in the course in Week 7.) (R)

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

Boulainvilliers on Nobles, in Jeffrey Kaplow, ed. France on the Eve of Revolution, 42-46 (R)

WEEK 3 (Feb. 7-9): ARTISANS & PEASANTS

Reading: *Jacques Ménétra, A Journal of My Life, vii-13, 241-280, 299-316, 17-80

Documents on Peasants, in Kaplow, ed. France on the Eve of Revolution, 3-13 (R)

WEEK 4 (Feb. 14-16): THE ENLIGHTENMENT I

Reading: *Montesquieu, The Persian Letters, exact letters TBA

Baron de Lahontan, A Dialogue between the Author and Adario, part of New Voyages to North-America (Chicago, 1905), 549-50, 570-89, 605-18 (R)

WEEK 5 (Feb. 21-23): THE ENLIGHTENMENT II

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Selections from The Social Contract, in The Enlightenment, ed. Margaret C. Jacob (Boston, 2001), 177-201 (R)

Thomas, d'Épinay & Rousseau in Lives and Voices: Sources in European Women's History, 243-251 (R)

WEEK 6 (Feb. 28- Mar. 1): THE GROWING ECONOMY, SLAVERY, & COLONIALISM

Reading: *Laurent Dubois, Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution (Cambridge, Mass., 2004), 1-90

Abbé Guillaume-Thomas Raynal, excerpt from Philosophical and Political History of the Settlements and Trades of the Europeans in the East and West Indies (London, 1779), Book XI: 48-61 (R)

Anti-slavery documents in Lynn Hunt, ed. The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History, 55-59 (R)

**** Paper due Monday, Feb. 27 in Jill Slaughter's Box #4108 on 4th floor of Humanities by noon.**

WEEK 7 (Mar. 6-8): LOUIS XV, POLITICS, & WAR AT MID-CENTURY

Reading: Julian Swann, "Politics: Louis XV," in Old Regime France, ed William Doyle, (Oxford, 2001), 205-222 (NB This reading is near the beginning of the course pack, from week 2.) (R)

Christine Pevitt Algrant, Madame de Pompadour: Mistress of France (NY, 2002), 187-204 (R)

Documents on the "Absolute Monarchy on Trial" in Keith Michael Baker, ed. The Old Regime and the French Revolution (Chicago, 1987), 47-55 (R)

WEEK 8 (Mar. 13-15): EXAM & CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Exam on Tuesday, Mar. 13

****In-class EXAM on Tuesday, Mar. 13**

Reading: *McPhee, The French Revolution, 24-49

No Section

WEEK 9 (Mar. 20-22): OUTBREAK OF FRENCH REVOLUTION

Reading: *McPhee, The French Revolution, 50-88

Abbé Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" in Sources of the Making of the West, II: 89-93 (R)

Accounts of the Popular Unrest and the Decree Abolishing Feudalism, in The Old Regime and the French Revolution, ed. K. M. Baker (Chicago, 1987), 217, 220-23, 226, 228-231 (R)

"The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" in Sources of the West, 69-70 (R)

WEEK 10 (Mar. 27-29): KING'S FLIGHT & RADICALIZATION OF REVOLUTION

Reading: *Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight, 1-56, 83-118, 137-155, 165-198

“Women’s March to Versailles” in The French Revolution: A Document Collection, 83-89 (R)

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11 (Apr. 10-12): REPUBLICANISM AND SOCIAL REFORMS

Reading: *McPhee, The French Revolution, 89-130

Documents on Jews’ rights: 93-101; Olympe de Gouges, “Declaration of the Rights of Women”, 124-129, in Hunt, ed. French Revolution and Human Rights, (R)

Dominique Godineau, “Masculine and Feminine Political Practice during the French Revolution, 1793-Year III,” in Women and Politics in the Age of Democratic Revolution, 61-80 (R)

WEEK 12 (Apr. 17-19): REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL CULTURE & THE TERROR

Reading: *McPhee, The French Revolution, 131-175

“Revolutionary Calendar” & “The Festival of the Supreme Being,” in The Old Regime and the French Revolution, 362-67, 384-391 (R)

Conflicting Views of Robespierre from George Rudé, ed., Robespierre, 161-175 (R)

Robespierre, “Report on Principles of Political Morality” The French Revolution, 254-258 (R)

WEEK 13 (Apr. 24-26): REVOLUTION IN COLONIES & ABROAD; THE DIRECTORY

*Laurent Dubois, Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution (Cambridge, Mass., 2004), 91-134, 152-93, 251-79, 298-301

Decree of General Liberty, in Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804, 120-125 (R)

Marc-Antoine Jullien’s “Notes of Advice to the Cisalpine Patriots” in From Jacobin to Liberal, Marc-Antoine Jullien, 1775-1848, ed. & trans. R. R. Palmer (Princeton, 1993), 82-86 (R)

WEEK 14 (May 1-3): THE RISE OF NAPOLEON

*Paul Johnson, Napoleon, ix-83 (mid-chapter)

Rafe Blaufarb, ed. Napoleon: Symbol for an Age (Boston, 2008) 52-56, 96-99, 121-26 (R)

Selection from Napoleon Bonaparte, How to Make War, ed. Yann Cloarec, 3-17, 37-51 (R)

****Paper due Monday, Apr. 30 in Jill Slaughter’s Box #4108 on 4th floor of Humanities by noon.**

WEEK 15 (May 8-10): NAPOLEON & THE REVOLUTIONARY LEGACY

Reading: *Paul Johnson, Napoleon, 106 (mid-chapter)-168

**Peter McPhee, The French Revolution, 178-204

Jakob Walter, “Memoirs” in Rafe Blaufarb, ed. Napoleonic Foot Soldiers and Civilians (Boston, 2011) 76-101 (R)

FINAL EXAM = 12:25 on Tues., May 15