

HIS 567

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

FALL 2001

Instructor: Paul Mazgaj

Office: 213 McIver

Office Hrs.: Tues. & Thurs. 10:45-11:15; 3:15-4:00

And by appointment

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READING LIST

TO BE PURCHASED: Jeremy Popkin, *A Short History of the French Revolution*
Robert Darnton, *The Forbidden Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France*
Gary Kates, *The French Revolution: Recent Debates and New Controversies*

RESERVE ROOM (RR): John Boyer (ed.), *Readings in Western Civilization, Vol 7*
Robert Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre*
Michael Baker, *Inventing the French Revolution*
Roger Chartier, *The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution*
Daniel Roche, *People of Paris*
Joan Landes, *Women and the Public Sphere*

COURSE OUTLINE

I. THE OLD REGIME

- A. The Demographic and Economic Backdrop
- B. The Premodern Worldview:
Hierarchy, Privilege, Community
- C. The Social Landscape of the Old Regime
 - 1. The Eternal Peasant
 - 2. The Nobility
 - 3. The Bourgeoisie
 - 4. The Popular Classes

Readings: Darnton, *Great Cat Massacre*, Introduction, Chaps. 2-3
Roche, *The People of Paris*, Chaps. 1-3

Discussion: Darnton, Chaps. 2-3 (after lecture on “The Popular Classes”)

II. THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE REVOLUTION

- A. The Enlightened Worldview
- B. Enlightened Political Thought
 - 1. Montesquieu
 - 2. Rousseau
- C. The Debate on Revolutionary Origins

Readings: Darnton, *The Forbidden Best-Sellers*, Chaps. 1-0
Baker, *Inventing the French Revolution*, RR, Chaps. 1 and 4
Chartier, *The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution*, RR Chaps. 1-2 and 4

Discussion: Debate on Revolutionary Origins: two days: first day, Darnton; second day, Baker and Chartier (following lecture on Rousseau)

PROSPECTUS DUE: Tues., Sept. 25

III. THE REVOLUTION: A NARRATIVE ACCOUNT

- A. The Crisis of the Old Order
 - B. The Liberal Revolution, 1789-1792
- MIDTERM EXAM:** Thurs., Oct 16 (?)
- C. The Radical Revolution, 1792-1794
 - D. Images of Revolution: Slide Presentation

Readings: Popkin, *Short History of the Revolution*, complete
Boyer, (ed.), *Readings in Western Civilization*, Vol. 7: *The Old Regime*, RR, Sections: 22 (pp. 237-39); 27 (pp. 261-68); 34 (pp. 302-24); 42 (368-84).
Landes, *Women in the Public Sphere*, RR, 1-65
Hunt, "The Many Bodies of Marie Antoinette," in Kates, *The French Revolution: Recent Debates and New Controversies*, pp. 279-301

Discussion: Women and the French Revolution: Landes and Hunt readings (after Slide Presentation)

IV. THE REVOLUTION: INTERPRETATIONS AND CONTROVERSIES

- A. The "Revolution" in Revolutionary Historiography
 - 1. The "Orthodox" View of the Revolution
 - 2. The Decline and Fall of Orthodoxy
- B. Robespierre, Jacobin Ideology, and the Terror
 - 1. The Traditional Robespierre

2. Robespierre Revisited
SEMESTER PAPER DUE: Tues., Nov. 20

Readings: Kates, *The French Revolution: Recent Debates and New Controversies*,
Chaps. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Discussion: Orthodoxy, Revisionism, Neo-Liberal Responses: Kates readings
(after "Robespierre Revisited")

V. EPILOGUE: NAPOLEON

- A. A Narrative Account
- B. Napoleon and the Legacy of Revolution

FINAL EXAM: Thurs., Dec. 9, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED, NOT OPTIONAL. The class depends on your regular attendance and participation. Only officially certified absences will be accepted. All unexcused absences will affect your grade. *Beyond two, they will seriously affect your grade.*

2. SEMESTER PAPER.

REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS. Eight to ten pages (typed, double-spaced). The topic should be an *interpretive* problem, selected from material covered in the course, and approved by the instructor. The vehicle for this approval will be a short but thoughtfully-conceived and well-written prospectus (due date above) describing your interpretive problem. The prospectus should also include a short, *annotated* bibliography indicating the sources that you intend to use. These sources must include at least two full-length books and at least two articles (or parts of books) beyond the assigned course reading. All sources must be serious pieces of historical scholarship (if in question, check with me). *Put all "due dates" (for prospectus and paper) on your calendar.* These "due dates" are non-negotiable--barring certified medical emergencies.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS. Ten to twelve pages (typed, double-spaced). The topic should be an *interpretive* problem, selected from material covered in the course, and approved by the instructor. The vehicle for this approval will be a short but thoughtfully-conceived and well-written prospectus (due date above) describing your interpretive problem. The prospectus should also include a *annotated* bibliography indicating the sources that you intend to use. These sources must include at least three full-length books and at least three articles (or parts of books) beyond the assigned course reading. All sources must be serious pieces of historical scholarship (if in question, check

with me). *Put all "due dates" (for prospectus and paper) on your calendar.*
These "due dates" are non-negotiable--barring certified medical emergencies.

3. EXAMINATIONS. A mid-term and a final. Essay format.

4. DISCUSSION. Your discussion grade will be determined by the frequency and quality of your contribution to class discussion.

5. GRADES. The following elements will determine your final grade:

mid-term exam--30%

final exam--30%

paper--30%

discussion grade--10%

