

Old Regime and Revolutionary France

Dr. Jennifer Palmer
LeConte 106
palmerjl@uga.edu
Office Hours: Monday, 2-4pm

History 3381
MWF, 9:05-9:55
LeConte Hall, room 101

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Course Description:

French history from the sixteenth to the late eighteenth century. Peasant life, social hierarchy, religious conflict, the politics and culture of Absolutism, the Enlightenment, the fall of the Old Regime, and the French Revolution.

Learning Objectives:

This class has two sets of learning objectives. First, you will demonstrate understanding of political, cultural, and social changes that occurred in Old Regime and Revolutionary France. Second, you will improve your analytical thinking, reading, writing, and verbal expression, all critical elements in the study of history. You will develop and strengthen your ability to analyze, verbally articulate your viewpoints on, compare, and write about European history. You will consider what you can learn from primary and secondary sources, and you will work toward developing your own interpretations and arguments. You will express and defend your analyses and interpretations through written assignments.

Evaluation:

Participation (including attendance): 20%

Taking the Lead in Discussion: 10%

Paper 1: 20%

Paper 2: 25%

Peer Review: 10%

Final Exam: 15%

Participation: Classroom participation is an integral part of this course. You will be graded on your willingness and ability to contribute to class through large-group conversation, group work in small groups, and in-class writing assignments. Such active participation requires outside preparation. You will be expected to prepare for class discussions by carefully completing the reading and by engaging with the text to come up with thoughtful, persuasive interpretations that draw on the text itself and its relationship to other sources we have read in class.

It is expected that your ability to grapple with complex texts, both in discussion and in writing, will improve over the course of the semester.

Taking the Lead in Discussion: Every time class meets you should prepare for discussion by critically engaging with the readings before you enter the classroom. This means thinking about who the author is, the author's motivations for writing, what we can learn from the readings,

what the readings leave out, how readings relate to other assigned sources for the week or that we've already read, how they relate to the themes of the class in general, and what questions you have about the readings. Three times over the course of the term, you will be evaluated on your preparedness for and contribution to discussion. For these sessions you will need to rigorously prepare for class by analytically engaging with the readings, preparing analyses and interpretations, and formulating questions.

Peer Review: You will complete peer reviews of 3-4 of your classmates' papers in assigned groups for each paper. Review sheets will be provided.

Paper 1: You will write one 2-3000 word (5-7 page) paper on an assigned topic.

September 26- First Paper Due in Class to Peer Reviewers

September 28- Peer Reviews of Papers Due

October 3- Final Papers Due in Class

Paper 2: You will write one 5-6000 word (8-10 page) paper on an assigned topic.

October 31- Second Paper Due in Class to Peer Reviewers

November 2- Peer Reviews of Papers Due

November 7- Final Papers Due in Class

Final Exam: Friday, December 9, 8-11am.

Please note that if you have a conflict with the exam you must make alternative arrangements with me no later than Monday October 17.

Late Papers:

One time over the course of the term you may have a "free pass" extension to turn in a paper up to 36 hours after the time it is due (at the end of the class period). You don't have to explain why your paper is late, and you will not be penalized for taking this extension. Use it carefully, though: you only have one, and if you have already used your free pass I will not accept another late paper. (Exceptions: I can arrange emergency extensions if you provide proper documentation.) This includes extensions for turning in papers to your peers, and turning in peer reviews.

Academic Honesty:

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Required Texts:

Published texts are available at the UGA Bookstore. Many of our readings are available on-line, either through links posted on eCL or through library electronic reserves. ***You must bring all assigned readings to class every day.*** You may use electronic devices (laptop, iPad) to bring the electronic readings to class, or you may print them out.

William Doyle, *Old Regime France, 1648-1788*.

Moliere, *Tartuffe: A New Verse Translation*, Norton Critical Edition.

Jeremy Popkin, *A Short History of the French Revolution*.

Robert Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History*.

Password for Library Reserves: france

Class Schedule:

WEEK 1

August 15: Introduction

August 17: Absolutist Monarchy

Colin Jones, Chapter 1: "France in 1715: The King's Leg and the Choreography of Power," in *The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon*, 1-35.

August 19:

Abby Zanger, Chapter 2, "Lim(b)inal Images," in *From the Royal to the Republican Body*, ed. Sara Melzer and Kathryn Norberg, 32-63.

WEEK 2: Absolutism and the Social Order

August 22:

Accounts of Louis XIV: <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/louisxiv.html>

August 24:

Robert Darnton, "A Bourgeois Puts His World in Order: The City as a Text," in *The Great Cat Massacre*, 107-144.

Charles Loyseau, "A Treatise on Orders," in *Readings in Western Civilization*, Vol. 7, 13-31.

August 26:

William Beik, Chapter 2, "The King and the Aristocrats at Court," in *Louis XIV and Absolutism*, 50-81.

WEEK 3: The Economy

August 29:

Joel Félix, "The Economy", in William Doyle, ed., *Old Regime France* (Oxford, 2001) 7-41.

August 31:

Jennifer Jones, "Coquettes and Grisettes: Women Buying and Selling in Ancien Régime Paris," in DeGrazia and Furlough, *The Sex of Things: Gender and Consumption in Historical Perspective*, 25-53.

September 2:

Excerpt from *Journal of my Life* by Jacques-Louis Ménétra, ed. Daniel Roche, p, 25 (start of second paragraph)-74 (end at second-to-last paragraph).

WEEK 4: Society

September 5: LABOR DAY- NO CLASS

September 7:

Gail Bossenga, "Society," in William Doyle, ed., *Old Regime France*, 41-77

September 9:

Sebastien Mercier, "Paris Scenes," in Laura Mason and Tracy Rizzo, *The French Revolution, A Document Collection*, 46-48.

WEEK 5: Culture and Religion

September 12:

David Bell, "Culture and Religion," in William Doyle, ed., *Old Regime France*, 78-104.

September 14:

Dena Goodman, "L'ortographe des dames: Gender and Language in the Old Regime," *French Historical Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (Spring, 2002), 191-223.

September 16:

Molière, *Tartuffe*, text of play, 1-62.

WEEK 6: Popular Culture

September 19:

Emanuel S. Chill, "*Tartuffe*, Religion, and Courtly Culture," in Norton Critical Edition of *Tartuffe*, 124-150.

Mechele Leon, "The Poet and the Prince: Revising Molière and *Tartuffe* in the French Revolution," in Norton Critical Edition of *Tartuffe*, 183-200.

September 21:

Daniel Roche, "Learning to be Consumers," from *The People of Paris*, 127-159.

September 23:

Robert Darnton, "Peasants Tell Tales: The Meaning of Mother Goose," Chapter 1 in *The Great Cat Massacre*, 9-74.

WEEK 7: Popular Culture and Politics

September 26:

First Paper Due in Class to Peer Reviewers (Bring at least three copies)

September 28: PEER REVIEWS

Peer Reviews of Papers Due

September 30:

Robert Darnton, "Workers Revolt: The Real Cat Massacre of the Rue Saint-Séverin," in *The Great Cat Massacre*, 75-104.

WEEK 8:

October 3: Popular Culture and Politics

Jeffrey S. Ravel, "The Coachman's Bare Rump: An Eighteenth-Century French Cover-Up," *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 40.2 (2007): 279-308.

Final Papers Due in Class

October 5: Slavery and Colonialism

Bouille and Thompson, Chapter 4, "France Overseas," in William Doyle, ed., *Old Regime France*, 105-138.

October 7: Slavery and Colonialism

Guillaume Aubert "'The Blood of France': Race and Purity of Blood in the French Atlantic World," *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 61, No. 3 (Jul., 2004), 439-478.

WEEK 9:

October 10: Slavery and Colonialism

"The French Atlantic and the Haitian Revolution," Sue Peabody and Keila Grinbert, *Slavery, Freedom, and the Law in the Atlantic World*, 31-45, documents 1-4.

October 12: Enlightenment

Colin Jones, "An Enlightening Age," Chapter 5 in *The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon, 1715-1799*, 171-225.

October 14: Enlightenment : Tree of Knowledge

Robert Darnton, "Philosophers Trim the Tree of Knowledge: The Epistemological Strategy of the *Encyclopédie*," in *The Great Cat Massacre*, 191-213.

WEEK 10:

October 17:

Denis Diderot, *The Definition of an Encyclopedia* (published 1751-1772), *Readings in Western Civilization*, Vol. 7, 71-89.

Three Encyclopedia Article of your choice- <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/>

October 19:

Who were the Philosophes?, from Goodman and Wellman, 41-76.

October 21: *Enlightenment II: The "Woman Question"*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Emile* (1762); *Lives and Voices*, 248-251. (eLC)

Antoine-Léonard Tomas, *Essay on the Character, Morals and Minds of Women Across the Centuries* (1772). *Lives and Voices*, 243-246. (eLC)

Louise d'Epinay's Letter to Abbé Ferdinando Galiani (c. 1772). *Lives and Voices*, 246-248. (eLC)

WEEK 11: Origins of the French Revolution

October 24: Popkin, Chapter 1, "The Origins of the French Revolution"

October 26:

Keith Baker, "On the Problem of the Ideological Origins of the French Revolution," in Keith Baker, *Inventing the French Revolution*, 12-27.

October 28: FALL BREAK- NO CLASS

WEEK 12:

October 31: Origins of the French Revolution

Roger Chartier, "Do Books Make Revolutions?" Chapter 4 in *The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution*, 67-91.

Second Paper Due in Class to Peer Reviewers (Bring at least three copies)

November 2: PEER REVIEWS

Peer Reviews of Papers Due

November 4: French Revolution: The Estates-General and the Rights of Man

Popkin, chapters 2-3, "The Collapse of the Absolute Monarchy" and "The Revolutionary Rupture"

WEEK 13: French Revolution: The Estates-General and the Rights of Man

November 7:

"Social Causes of the Revolution"- Essay, maps, images, primary sources, pages 1-4, at the "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution" website:

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/>

Final Papers Due in Class

November 9:

Abbé Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" (eLC)

November 11:

"Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" (eLC)

"Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Citizen" (eLC)

WEEK 14: French Revolution: From Liberal to Radical

November 14:

Popkin, Chapter 4, "The Defeat of the Liberal Revolution"

November 16:

Lynn Hunt, Chapter 3, "The Imagery of Radicalism" in *Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution*, 87-119.

November 18:

Monarchy Embattled,” Essay, maps, images, primary sources, pages 1-4, at the “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution” website:
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/>

THANKSGIVING BREAK- NO CLASS November 21-25

WEEK 15: French Revolution: War, Terror, and Resistance

November 28:

Popkin, Chapters 5 and 6, “The Convention and the Republic,” and “Return to Order”

November 30:

“War, Terror, and Resistance,” Essay, maps, images, primary sources, pages 1-5, at the “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution” website:
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/>

December 2: Women and the Revolution

“A Political Revolution for Women? The Case of Paris,” Levy and Applewhite in *Becoming Visible*, 265-294.

WEEK 16: Haitian Revolution

December 5:

Laurent Dubois, Chapter 4, “Fire in the Cane,” *Avengers of the New World*, 91-114.

December 6:

Laurent Dubois and John Garrigus, *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804*, part 3, “From Slave Revolution to Emancipation, 1791-1794,” 86-107.

Final Exam: Friday, December 9, 8-11am.