

History 4300: The Trial in Modern European History (Spring 2004)
TR 3:30-4:45

Professor Laura Mason
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office hours: Th 2:15-3:15 & by appt

Course Requirements

Reading. Because this course is run as a seminar, with few lectures, assigned texts serve as our principal source of information and the basis of almost all in-class work. There will be approximately 125 pages of reading weekly, which students must be willing to read carefully and critically. While I may pose specific questions for particular readings, there are general questions that you ought always to keep in mind. What is the author's central argument? What evidence does he/she use to support that argument? How do these arguments support, contradict, or intersect with the other readings for this course? Am I persuaded by this argument? Why or why not?

Discussion. Careful reading is the necessary pre-requisite of class participation. Because the majority of class sessions will be devoted to discussion, students will have the opportunity to pose questions about the texts and to debate issues raised by the different trials we examine. (We will alternate between conducting discussions as an entire class and breaking up into smaller groups.)

Writing. Writing assignments should grow out of the reading, discussion, and critical thinking that are integral to the class. Students will write three medium-length (4-5 pp, see below) analytic papers based on course readings and discussion, and a 6-8 pp. research paper on an assigned topic.

Statement on Plagiarism. Plagiarism means taking credit for research, writing, or ideas not your own. Students caught plagiarizing will fail the class and be reported to university authorities. For more information, go to: http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/sect05.htm.

Grades

Discussion	20%
1 st mid-length paper	15%
2 nd & 3 rd papers	20% each
Research paper	25%

Required Texts

Jeffrey Freedman, [A Poisoned Chalice](#)
David Jordan, [The King's Trial: Louis XVI vs. the French Revolution](#)
Michael Burns, [France and the Dreyfus Affair](#),
Michael Foldy, [The Trials of Oscar Wilde](#)
Robert Conquest, [The Great Terror: A Reassessment](#)

Class Schedule

Th Jan 8: Introduction to course

Overview and Definitions

Tu Jan 13: Ron Christenson, "What is a Political Trial?" Political Trials: Gordian Knots in the Law (1999) pp. 1-14 (on reserve)

Michael Belknap, "Political Trials in the American Past," M. Belknap (ed) American Political Trials (1994) pp xiii-xxviii (on reserve)

Th. Jan 15: Robert Harriman, "Introduction" & "Performing the Laws: Popular Trials and Social Knowledge," R. Harriman (ed) Popular Trials pp. 1-30 (on reserve)

The Enlightenment on Trial

Tu Jan 20: Lecture on Enlightenment

Th Jan 22: Jeffrey Freedman, A Poisoned Chalice pp. 1-52

Tu Jan 27: Jeffrey Freedman, A Poisoned Chalice pp. 53-109

Th Jan 29: Jeffrey Freedman, A Poisoned Chalice pp. 109-160

Tu Feb 3: No class. Work on papers.

Th Feb 5: No class. 4-5 pp. papers due on political trials and A Poisoned Chalice

The Old Regime on Trial

Tu Feb 10: Lecture on the French Revolution

Th Feb 12: David Jordan, The King's Trial pp. 11-78

Tu Feb 17: Jordan, The King's Trial pp. 88-91, 98-100, 101-160

Th Feb 19: Jordan, The King's Trial pp. 161-207, 222-237

Tu Feb 24: Speeches on the king's trial. Michael Walzer, Regicide and Revolution pp. 110-120 (Morrison), 120-127 (Saint-Just), 139-158 (Condorcet), 158-166 (Marat)

Mo Mar 1: 4-5 pp. paper due on trial of Louis XVI

Political Trials

Th Feb 26: Lecture on belle-epoque France

Tu Mar 2: Michael Burns, France and the Dreyfus Affair, pp. vii-86

Th Mar 4: Michael Burns, France and the Dreyfus Affair, pp.87-162

Mar 8-12: Spring Break

Tu Mar 16: Michael Burns, France and the Dreyfus Affair, pp. 163-192

Jean-Denis Bredin, The Affair pp. 515-545

Mo Mar 22: 4-5 pp. paper due on Dreyfus affair

Society on Trial

Th Mar 18: Lecture on Victorian Society

Tu Mar 23: Judith Walkowitz, "Science and the Séance: Transgressions of Gender & Genre," City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London pp. 171-189 (on reserve)

Michael Foldy, The Trials of Oscar Wilde pp. 1-30

Th Mar 25: Foldy, The Trials of Oscar Wilde pp. 31-96
Tu Mar 30: Foldy, The Trials of Oscar Wilde pp. 97-153
Mo Apr 5: 4-5 pp. paper due on trial of Oscar Wilde

The Show Trial

Th Apr 1: Lecture on Soviet Society in the 1930s

Tu Apr 6: Robert Conquest, The Great Terror pp. 37-70

Th Apr 8: Robert Conquest, The Great Terror pp. 71-131

Tu Apr 13: No class. Initiate research.

Th Apr 15: Robert Conquest, The Great Terror pp. 250-290, 341-364

Tu Apr 20: Robert Conquest, The Great Terror pp. 364-398, 445-483

Mo Apr 26: 4-5 pp. paper due on Stalinist trials

Th Apr 22: No class. Independent research.

Tu Apr 27: No class. Independent research.

Mo May 3: 6-8 pp. research papers due in my mailbox by 5 pm