

History 4391: The French Revolution TR 5-6:15 (Spring 2004)

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This seminar introduces students to the social, political, and cultural history of the French Revolution. Over the course of the semester, we will confront some of the central questions about the Revolution, born with the event itself: How and why did the Revolution begin? Whose interests did it serve? Why did it become increasingly radical? How to end it? What were its long-term consequences? We will attempt to answer such questions using historical methods: weighing evidence from the period against scholars' retrospective arguments, discussing questions and hypotheses that texts generate, and producing well-documented arguments.

Course Requirements

Participation. The course will be almost equally divided between lectures and discussion (one day a week will be devoted to a 50-minute lecture and 20-minute discussion of a document; the other may begin with a brief lecture but will be devoted principally to discussion). Participation in discussion is essential; you must be present and have done the readings **before class** to receive full credit for participation. (Students who miss more than three discussions will drop a grade for participation; students who miss more than five discussions will receive no credit for participation).

The French Revolution was and remains a hotly-contested event, its historiography advanced by debates that lasted decades. Therefore, students are expected to use discussion to engage intellectual debate: to consider events and issues from all sides, and to take issue with positions developed by other students and the instructor. Debate is always to be both civil and scholarly; substantiate your arguments with evidence from lectures, assigned texts, and previous discussions.

Reading. There will be, **on average**, 75-100 pages of reading weekly (including both primary and secondary sources). Because discussion forms an integral part of course work, you must read texts carefully and critically. Mark important passages and keep notes on interpretive problems raised by the text; make notes on issues you would like to discuss. I may pose specific questions for particular readings, but there are more general questions you ought always to keep in mind.

For primary sources: who wrote this document? When? What evidence is there of the writer's intentions? How might this document be related to other primary sources? (e.g., Is the language similar? Are the concerns or argumentation similar/ different?) How might this document be related to the secondary readings? Does it reinforce or undermine arguments developed in the secondary readings?

For secondary sources: what does the author argue? What evidence does he/she use to support that argument? Does this argument support, contradict, or intersect with the other readings for this course? Am I persuaded by it? Why or why not?

Writing. Writing assignments grow out of the reading, discussion, and critical thinking integral to the class. Students will write three analytic papers (4-5 pp. each) based on course readings and discussion, and an 8-10 pp. research paper on an assigned topic.

Statement on Plagiarism. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. For more information, go to: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

Grades

Discussion (including research presentation)	25%
1 st mid-length paper	10%
2 nd & 3 rd papers	20% each
Research paper	25%

Required Texts

Jeremy Popkin, [A Short History of the French Revolution](#)
Laura Mason & Tracey Rizzo (eds) [The French Revolution: A Document Collection](#)
Georges Lefebvre, [The Coming of the French Revolution](#)
David Jordan, [The King's Trial: Louis XVI vs. the French Revolution](#)
Isser Woloch, [Napoleon and His Collaborators: the Making of a Dictatorship](#)

Class Schedule

Tu Aug 23: Introduction to the course

The Old Regime

Th Aug 25: Old-Regime Social Structure

[Short History](#) pp. 8-15

Charles Loyseau, "A Treatise on Orders," [French Revolution Docs](#) pp. 16-23

Tu Aug 30: A Revolution in Ideas: the Enlightenment (pt. I)

[Short History](#) pp. 16-20

Voltaire, "Reflections on Religion: articles on fanaticism, religion, tolerance,"
Kramnick (ed) [The Enlightenment Reader](#) pp. 117-124, 129-131 (on reserve w/
password **revolution**)

Denis Diderot, "Encyclopedia," paragraphs 1-29 (www.hti.umich.edu/d/did)
(stop at the line that concludes: "... attached to the memory of their enemies.")

Th Sep 1: A Revolution in Ideas: the Enlightenment (pt. II)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, excerpts from [Discourse on the Origins of Inequality and Social Contract](#), Kramnick (ed) [The Enlightenment Reader](#) pp 424-441 (on reserve w/ password **revolution**)

Tu Sep 6: Old-Regime Political Institutions

[Short History](#), pp. 21-29

Parliamentary Remonstrance & Necker's introduction to the king's accounts, [French Revolution Docs](#) pp. 24-32

Georges Lefebvre, [Coming of the French Revolution](#) pp. 1-37

From Reform to Revolution

Th Sep 8: The Third Estate Mobilizes

Short History, pp. 29-35

French Revolution Docs pp. 51-61

Georges Lefebvre, Coming of the French Revolution pp. 41-128

Tu Sep 13: Revolution in the countryside

Short History, pp. 36-44

Georges Lefebvre, Coming of the French Revolution pp. 131-168, 185-205

French Revolution Docs pp. 67-75

From Liberalism to Radicalism

Th Sep 15: Who is "Equal before the Law?" Religion, gender, and race

Short History, pp. 44-49

Georges Lefebvre, Coming of the French Revolution, pp. 169-181, 209-223

French Revolution Docs pp. 98-117

Tu Sep 20: No class. 4-5 pp. papers on origins of the French Revolution due in my mailbox by 5 pm

Th Sep 22: The Civil Constitution of the Clergy

Short History pp. 49-53

French Revolution Docs pp. 144-152

Tu Sep 27: France Goes to War

Short History pp. 53-72

French Revolution Docs pp. 159-170

Republic and Terror

Th Sep 29: Trying the King

Short History pp. 73-77

David Jordan, The King's Trial: Louis XVI vs. the French Revolution pp. 1-125

Tu Oct 4: Trying the King

David Jordan, The King's Trial: Louis XVI vs. the French Revolution pp. 126-237

Th Oct 6: Sans-Culottes

Short History pp. 77-82

French Revolution Docs pp. 197-208, 225-230

Tu Oct 11: No class. 4-5 pp. papers on the radicalization of the Revolution due in my mailbox by 5 pm

Th Oct 13: Republicanism

Lynn Hunt, "Symbolic Forms of Political Practice," Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution pp. 52-86 (on reserve w/ password **revolution**)
French Revolution Docs pp. 249-262

Tu Oct 18: Federalism & Counter-Revolution

Paul Hanson, "The Federalist Program," The Jacobin Republic under Fire pp. 99-122 (on reserve w/ password **revolution**)
French Revolution Docs pp. 214-220

Th Oct 20: The Terror

Short History pp. 82-92
French Revolution Docs pp. 221-224, 230-243

Tu Oct 25: Revolution in Saint-Domingue

Carolyn Fick, "The French Revolution in Saint Domingue: A Triumph or a Failure?"
David Gaspar & David Geggus (eds) A Turbulent Time: The French Revolution and the Greater Caribbean pp. 51-75 (on reserve w/ password **revolution**)
French Revolution Docs pp. 208-214

Th Oct 27: No class. Fall break.

The Struggle to End the Revolution

Tu Nov 1: The Thermidoran Reaction

Short History pp. 94-100
French Revolution Docs pp. 263-275

Th Nov 3: No class. 4-5 pp. papers on the Terror due in my mailbox by 5 pm

Tu Nov 8: The Directory, Renewing Revolution?

Short History pp. 101-108
French Revolution Docs pp. 288-310

Th Nov 10: The Directory, Reshaping Revolution?

French Revolution Docs pp. 310-333

Wrestling with the Legacy of the French Revolution

Tu Nov 15: The Consulate

Short History pp. 109-121
Isser Woloch, Napoleon and His Collaborators pp. 1-119

Th Nov 17: The Empire

Short History pp. 122-137
Isser Woloch, Napoleon and His Collaborators pp. 120-243

Tu Nov 22: No class. Independent research.

Th Nov 24: Thanksgiving Holiday

Tu Nov 29: Group meetings to discuss research

Th Dec 1: Research presentations to class

Th Dec 8: Research presentations to class

Fr Dec 9: 8-10 pp. research papers due in my mailbox by 5 pm