

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 2004-2005

HISTORY 223: Society and Gender in Early Modern Europe: 18th-Century France Prof. Desan
262-8694 smdesan@wisc.edu
Tuesday 1:20-3:20 5124 Humanities

As part of the larger FIG on Society and Gender in Early Modern Europe and Modern America, this course will analyze gender and women in eighteenth-century France, including both the Old Regime (pre-revolutionary era) and the French Revolution of 1789. For the first half of the course, we will explore gender dynamics in multiple pre-revolutionary contexts, such as the family, the workplace, and the monarchy (with particular focus on Queen Marie-Antoinette). The reading emphasizes autobiographical writings & letters from the eighteenth-century to give us a bird's-eye view of how people thought about gender roles and identity. The second half will examine the era of the French Revolution, including women's popular activism, gender representations in revolutionary images and symbols, women's rights, and last but not least, monarchy, gender, and politics. The CD-Rom from the Censer and Hunt book provides an especially rich collection of primary documents for this segment of the class.

This course has three central goals: 1) to think about how gender dynamics and norms have operated over time and to ask how they have been created, challenged, and transformed, by individuals, institutions, and movements; 2) to examine history as an act of interpretation rather than a simple series of facts and unified accounts; 3) to use primary sources documents in order to question and construct history ourselves.

Requirements:

The most crucial requirement is to come to class well-prepared and to engage actively in the class discussion. Students will also write three papers: a 5-6 page paper due on Tues., Oct. 12; a 5-6 page paper due on Monday, Nov. 8; a final 9-11 page term paper involving outside research, due on Tues., Dec. 14. Six questionnaires are also required. Grading basis: participation and discussion, 40%; first paper, 15%; second paper, 15%; final paper, 25%; questionnaires, 5%.

Reading

All reading is required. Two books, marked with an asterisk (*), are available at Room of One's Own Bookstore at 307 W. Johnson Street. The course packet is available at the Humanities Copy Center at 1650 Humanities Center. The books and reader are also on 3-hour Reserve at H. C. White Library.

Jack Censer & Lynn Hunt, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution
Marie-Jeanne Roland, The Memoirs of Madame Roland: A Heroine of the French Revolution
Course Reader

PART ONE: GENDER & THE OLD REGIME

Week 1 (Sept. 7) INTRODUCTION

Week 2 (Sept. 14) THE MONARCHY & MARIE-ANTOINETTE

Munro Price, "The King and His Family"

Letters by or about Marie Antoinette in Olivier Bernier, ed. Secrets of Marie Antoinette, 30-37, 198-201, 236-237

*Questionnaire #1 due

Week 3 (Sept 21) OLD REGIME FRANCE & MARIE ANTOINETTE

Simon Schama, Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution, 203-226

* Censer and Hunt, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution, 1-21

*Questionnaire #2 due

Week 4 (Sept 28) ARTISAN WORLDS: ONE MAN'S MEMOIR

Jacques-Louis Ménétra, Journal of My Life, 17-50

Robert Darnton, "The Great Cat Massacre"

Week 5: (Oct. 5) MIDDLE-CLASS UPBRINGING: ONE WOMAN'S MEMOIR

*Madame Roland, Memoirs, 125-147 on childhood; 168-184 on adolescence; 198 mid-page -252 on courtship, marriage, etc.

Week 6 (Oct. 12): LIBRARY VISIT

We will meet in Room 436 Memorial Library for class.

** FIRST PAPER DUE, Oct 12 at class.

PART TWO: GENDER AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Week 7 (Oct. 19): OUTBREAK OF FRENCH REVOLUTION

*Censer and Hunt, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, 51-66

Chapter on Women and Revolution on CD-Rom, pp. 68-72 only

CD-Rom: Petition of Women of the Third Estate to the King (1 January 1789): link on p. 71 of the CD-Rom under "Women's Demands" or you can find it under the category "Women" in the Resource Index of the CD. Be sure to print all material from the CD and bring it to class.

Week 8 (Oct. 26): WOMEN'S DEMANDS FOR RIGHTS

Chapter on Women and Revolution on CD-Rom, pp. 73-81 only

CD-Rom: 1) "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen" (1789) link on p. 33; 2) Olympe de Gouges, "The Declaration of the Rights of Women" (1791), on p. 73

Dominique Godineau, The Women of Paris and Their Revolution, 3-31

*Questionnaire #3 due

Week 9 (Nov. 2): IMAGES OF WOMEN & MEN

Lynn Hunt, "Hercules and the Radical Image in the French Revolution"

CD-Rom: How to Read Revolutionary Images
*Questionnaire #4 due

Week 10 (Nov. 9): IMAGES OF MARIE-ANTOINETTE

Show parts of film "Marie Antoinette"

Lynn Hunt, "The Many Bodies of Marie Antoinette: Political Pornography and the Problem of the Feminine in the French Revolution"

** 2nd Paper due, Monday, Nov. 8 in my box: 5031 Humanities

Week 11: (Nov. 16) MARIE-ANTOINETTE UNDER ATTACK

Laura Mason, "'We're Just Little People Louis: Marie-Antoinette on Film"

Elizabeth Colwill, "Pass as a Woman, Act Like a Man: Marie-Antoinette as Tribade in the Pornography of the French Revolution"

Chantal Thomas, The Wicked Queen: The Origins of the Myth of Marie-Antoinette, 203-15, 239-46

Week 12 (Nov. 23) : INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Initial Research Paper Topics Meetings on Monday and Tuesday

*Topic & library questionnaire (#5) due at meeting with me

Week 13 (Nov. 30): OCTOBER DAYS: PARISIAN WOMEN'S ACTIVISM

Two historical accounts of the October Days:

1) Darline Gay Levy & Harriet B. Applewhite, "A Political Revolution for Women? The Case of Paris," pp. 265-77

2) Hippolyte Taine, The French Revolution, originally published in 1886, 112-123

Primary Sources on the October Days:

CD-Rom on p. 72, 1) Stanislas Maillard Describes the Women's March to Versailles (5 October 1789); 2) Women Testify Concerning Their Participation in the October Days (1789); 3) three images of October Days on pp. 72-73

Week 14 (Dec. 7) INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

* Outline & Source Questionnaire (#6) due at meeting

Week 15 (Dec. 14) REVOLUTIONARY LEGACIES

* Final Paper due Tues., Dec. 14 at class