

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester I, 2004-2005

HISTORY 352: EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE
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Prof. Desan
5124 Humanities

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of Europe in the eighteenth century. The five most powerful countries--France, England, Prussia, Austria, and Russia--will receive the most attention. The course is divided into three major units. 1) "Society and Politics in the Eighteenth Century" will provide a basic background on social structure, absolutist monarchy, the constitutional alternative, and empire-building. 2) "Culture: The Enlightenment and Reactions" will examine religion, art, and above all the Enlightenment, its influences, and the reactions it provokes, such as the pre-romantic movement. 3) "Challenges to the Old Order" will look at major forces of change in the later eighteenth century, such as the agricultural and industrial revolutions and the various popular movements against absolutism or the constitutional monarchy. The major portion of this final section will examine the greatest attack on the Old Order: the French Revolution.

Reading: Five books, marked with asterisks, have been ordered at the University Book Store. A course reader is also required, and is available at the Humanities Copy Center in 1650 Humanities. All books and the reader will also be on 3-hour reserve at H. C. White library.

TEXTBOOK: Isser Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe
Olaudah Equiano, The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Basic Political Writings
Friedrich Schiller, The Robbers
Peter McPhee, The French Revolution

Requirements: Students will take a mid-term exam on Thursday, Oct. 14 and a final exam. A paper will also be required: 4-6 pages for 3-credit students; 9-11 pages for 4-credit students. The paper is due on Friday, Nov. 19. Participation in discussion section is also required. Final grades will be based as follows: for 4-credit students: 20% discussion & section participation; 25% midterm exam; 25% paper; 30% final exam; for 3-credit students: 20% discussion & section participation; 25% midterm exam; 20% paper; 35% final exam.

Week 1 (Sept. 2): INTRODUCTION

Reading: * Isser Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, 60-119

UNIT I: SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Week 2 (Sept. 7-9): RURAL & URBAN SOCIETY AND POPULAR CULTURE

Reading: Robert Darnton, "The Great Cat Massacre," 3-7, 75-104

Bonnie Smith, Changing Lives: Women in European History since 1700, 6-33

Selections from Eighteenth-Century Chapbooks

* Woloch, Text, 214-230

Week 3 (Sept. 14-16): FRANCE: ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 1-59

Bossuet, selection from Politics drawn from the Very Word of Scripture

St. Simon, selection from Mémoires

Week 4 (Sept. 21-23): ENGLAND, EUROPEAN COLONIZATION, AND SLAVERY

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 119-135

Niall Ferguson, Empire, 3-56

Franklin Knight, The Caribbean (NY, 1990), 120-58

Week 5 (Sept. 28-30): EUROPEAN CONFLICTS & POLITICS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Reading: * The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, 1-41, 46-71, 86-115, 152-62, and read the headings on the first page of the skipped chapters to get an idea of his story; use the chronology pp. 197-201 to aid your reading.

Week 6 (Oct. 5-7): POLITICS IN EASTERN EUROPE

Reading: Maria Theresa & Joseph II from Sharing the Stage, 63-70, 76-81

Exchange of Letters between Frederick William and his son Frederick; Exchange of Letters between Peter I and his son Alexei

Frederick the Great on War and Philosophy: From his Anti-Machiavel, and Letter to Voltaire

UNIT II: CULTURE: THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND REACTIONS

Week 7 (Oct. 12-14): RELIGION & MIDTERM

** MIDTERM on Thursday, Oct 14

Week 8 (Oct. 19-21): THE ENLIGHTENMENT I

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 183-214, 231-70

Selection from The Encyclopedia by Diderot

Lessing, "The Parable of the Ring" from Nathan the Wise

Voltaire, from the "Treatise on Tolerance," The French Revolution and Human Rights, 38-40

* Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Basic Political Writings, Part of the "Discourse on the Origin of Inequality": 25-28, 33-39, 59-81

Week 9 (Oct. 26-28): THE ENLIGHTENMENT II

Reading: * Rousseau, Basic Political Writings, part of the "Social Contract": 139-66, 170-72

Abbé Raynal and Condorcet on Slavery, from Lynn Hunt, The French Revolution and Human Rights (Boston, 1996), 51-57

Week 10 (Nov. 2-4): ROMANTIC REACTION: THE STORM & STRESS MOVEMENT

Reading: * Friedrich Schiller, The Robbers

UNIT III: CHALLENGES TO THE OLD ORDER

Week 11 (Nov. 9-11) INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION & POLITICAL REFORMS

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 135-182, 306-319

Documents on Industrialization from Sources of the Western Tradition, II, ed. M. Perry, 135-47
Sharing the Stage, (Joseph II) 70-75 & 83-85

Week 12 (Nov. 16-18): NEW POLITICS: REFORM & REVOLUTION

Reading: * Peter McPhee, The French Revolution, 24-63

** PAPER DUE Friday, Nov. 19

Week 13 (Nov. 23): OUTBREAK OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Reading: * McPhee, French Revolution, 64-130

Documents: Sieyès & The Declaration of the Rights of Man

Week 14 (Nov. 30-Dec. 3): THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Reading: * McPhee, French Revolution, 131-203

French Revolution Documents: Documents on Women, & Robespierre's Speech

Week 15 (Dec. 7-9): NAPOLEON & THE REVOLUTIONARY LEGACY

Reading: Jack Censer and Lynn Hunt, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution, 139-159, 171-78

Week 16 (Dec. 14): REVIEW

FINAL EXAM