

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester I, 2007-08

HISTORY 352: EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE
T.A., Jeffrey Hobbs
hobbs@wisc.edu

Prof. Desan
5124 Humanities
smdesan@wisc.edu

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of Europe in the eighteenth century. The five most powerful countries--France, England, Russia, Prussia, and Austria--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, and the constitutional alternative. 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. This final section will conclude with an examination of 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
Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight

Requirements: Students will take two in-class exams (at the end of the first two units) on Tuesday, Oct. 9 & Tues. Nov. 6, and a two-hour final exam. A paper will also be required: 3-5 pages for 3-credit students (based on reading in the course); 8-10 pages for 4-credit students (involving outside research.) The paper is due on Monday, December 10. Participation in discussion section is also required. Final grades will be based as follows: for 4-credit students: 15% discussion & section participation; 20% each in-class exam; 20% paper; 25% final exam; for 3-credit students: 20% discussion & section participation; 20% each in-class exam; 15% paper; 25% final exam.

UNIT I: SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Week I (Sept. 4-6): INTRODUCTION & PEASANTRY

Reading: * Isser Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, 60-79, 103-119, 214-230
French Folktales, ed. H. Pourrat, 147-55, 234-39
Selections from Eighteenth-Century Chapbooks

Week 2 (Sept. 11-13): RURAL & URBAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 91-102
Robert Darnton, "The Great Cat Massacre," 3-7, 75-104 (R)
Bonnie Smith, Changing Lives: Women in European History since 1700, 6-33 (R)
Roy Porter, English Society in the Eighteenth Century, 232-60 (R)

Week 3 (Sept. 18-20): FRANCE & ENGLAND: ABSOLUTIST & CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY Reading: * Woloch, Text, 1-35, 51-59, 79-91

Bossuet, from Politics drawn from ...Scripture; St. Simon, selection from Mémoires (R)
Linda Colley, The Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837, 1-54 (R)

Week 4 (Sept. 25-27): EUROPEAN COLONIAL EXPANSION AND SLAVERY

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 119-135

* The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, 2nd ed. by Robert Allison 1-51, 57-82, 98-129, 168bottom-179, and read the headings on the first page of the skipped chapters to get an idea of his story; use the chronology pp. 226-231 to aid your reading. (assigned pp. = intro, 2/3 of ch. 1, chs 2,3, 5, 6, and Christian conversion part of ch. 10; in first ed.: 1-41, 46-71, 86-115, 152-62)

Week 5 (Oct. 2-4): POLITICS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 36-50

David Fraser, Frederick the Great, 3-74 (R)

Exchange of Letters between Maria Theresa and her son Joseph; between Frederick William and his son Frederick; Letters between Peter I and his son Alexei (R)

Frederick the Great on War, Poetry, and Deism: from Anti-Machiavel and Letters with Voltaire (R)

Week 6 (Oct. 9-11): EXAM & ORIGINS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT

***EXAM on Tuesday, Oct 9

UNIT II: CULTURE: THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND REACTIONS

Reading (for section after exam): * Woloch, Text, 231-70

Lessing, "The Parable of the Ring" from Nathan the Wise (R)

Voltaire, from the "Treatise on Toleration" 38-40 (R)

Beccaria, "On Crimes and Punishment," 710-11, 716-17, 734-38 (R)

Week 7 (Oct. 16-18): THE ENLIGHTENMENT I

Reading: Selection from The Encyclopedia by Diderot

* Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Basic Political Writings, Part of the "Discourse on the Origin of Inequality" & "The Social Contract": 25-28, 33-39, 59-81, 139-66, 170-72

Week 8 (Oct. 23-25): THE ENLIGHTENMENT II

Reading: Mary Wollstonecraft, from A Vindication of the Rights of Women (R)

David Hume, excerpts from A Treatise of Human Nature & from An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals (R)

Week 9 (Oct. 30-Nov. 1): ROMANTIC REACTION & ENLIGHTENMENT POLITICS

Reading: * Friedrich Schiller, The Robbers

Sharing the Stage, (Joseph II) 70-75 & 83-85 (R)

Pugachev Manifesto (R)

Week 10 (Nov. 6-8): EXAM & BREAK

** EXAM for unit two, Tues. Nov. 6

No class on Thurs., Nov. 8

UNIT III: CHALLENGES TO THE OLD ORDER

Week 11 (Nov. 13-15): AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTIONS

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 135-45, 177-182

Peter Stearns, "The Social Impact of the Industrial Revolution," 55-70 (R)

Documents on Industrialization, Sources of the Western Tradition, ed. M. Perry, II:135-47 (R)

Week 12 (Nov. 20): NEW POLITICS: REFORM & REVOLT IN ENGLAND

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 301-319

Week 13 (Nov. 27-29): CRISIS IN THE OLD REGIME: FRANCE

Reading: * Woloch, Text, 323-38

*Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight, 1-56

Documents: Sieyès & The Declaration of the Rights of Man (R)

Week 14 (Dec. 4-6): THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Reading: *Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight, 83-118,137-155,165-198

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

** PAPER DUE Monday, Dec. 10

Week 15 (Dec. 11-13): NAPOLEON & THE LEGACIES OF REVOLUTIONARY ERA

Reading: David A. Bell, The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It, 186-262 (R)

FINAL EXAM: Thurs., December 20 at 10:05