

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of History  
Semester I, 2011-2012

## HISTORY 352: EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE

Prof. Suzanne Desan  
Office hours: Tues. 3:30-4:30; Thurs. 1:30-2:30  
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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 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 an in-class, midterm exam on Thursday, Oct. 13, and a two-hour final exam. A paper will also be required: 4-5 pages for 3-credit students (based on reading in the course); 9-11 pages for 4-credit students (involving outside research.) The paper is due on Monday, December 5. Participation in discussion section is also required. Final grades will be based as follows: for 4-credit students: 25% discussion & section participation; 20% midterm exam; 25% paper; 30% final exam; for 3-credit students: 25% discussion & section participation; 25% midterm exam; 20% paper; 30% final exam.

### UNIT I: SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

#### Week I (Sept. 6-8): INTRODUCTION & ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY

Reading: \* Woloch, Text, 1-12, 26-35, 51-59

Bossuet, selection from Politics drawn from the Very Word of Scripture (R)

St. Simon, selection from Mémoires (R)

Week 2 (Sept. 13-15): BRITISH KINGS & EUROPEAN PEASANTS

Reading: \* Woloch, Text, 60-91, 103-119

Linda Colley, The Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837, 1-54 (R)

Olwen Hufton, The Prospect Before Her: A History of Women in Western Europe, 62-101 (R)

Week 3 (Sept. 20-22): RURAL & URBAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Reading: \* Woloch, Text, 91-102, 214-230

Robert Darnton, The Great Cat Massacre 3-7, 75-143 (R)

M. E. Vasileva, "Notes of a Serf Woman," Slavery and Abolition 21 (2000): 146-58 (R)

Week 4 (Sept. 27-29): EUROPEAN COLONIAL EXPANSION AND SLAVERY

Reading: \* Woloch, Text, 119-135

\* The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 4-6): POLITICS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Reading: \* Woloch, Text, 13-26, 36-50

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 his Anti-Machiavel, and exchange of letters with Voltaire (R)

Otto Hoetzsch, The Evolution of Russia, 77-95 (R)

UNIT II: CULTURE: THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND REACTIONS

Week 6 (Oct. 11-13): RELIGION & MIDTERM EXAM

\*\*\*EXAM on Thursday, Oct. 13

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

No section

Week 7 (Oct. 18-20): THE ENLIGHTENMENT I

Reading: 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)

\* 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

Week 8 (Oct. 25-27): THE ENLIGHTENMENT II

Reading: Selection from The Encyclopedia by Diderot (R)

\* Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Basic Political Writings, Part of the "Discourse on the Origin of Inequality" & "The Social Contract": 139-66, 170-72

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 (Nov. 1-3): ROMANTIC REACTION & ENLIGHTENMENT SCIENCE

Reading: \* Friedrich Schiller, The Robbers

Week 10 (Nov. 8-10): ENLIGHTENMENT POLITICS IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

Reading: "Catherine the Great: Empress of All the Russias," 48-71 (R)

Pugachev Manifesto, Catherine's "Nagaz" (Instruction to Legislative Commission), and Manifesto against Pugachev (R)

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

### UNIT III: CHALLENGES TO THE OLD ORDER

Week 11 (Nov. 15-17): AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTIONS

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

Robert C. Allen, The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective, 182-216 (R)

Documents on Industrialization, Sources of the Western Tradition, II:118-23 & in Western Societies, 134-139 (R)

Eric Hobsbawm, Industry and Empire: The Birth of the Industrial Revolution, 57-74 (R)

Week 12 (Nov. 22): NEW POLITICS IN BRITAIN: REFORM & REVOLT

Reading: \* Woloch, Text, 301-319

Week 13 (Nov. 29-Dec. 1): CRISIS IN OLD REGIME FRANCE & FRENCH REVOLUTION

Reading: \* Woloch, Text, 323-38

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

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

\*\* PAPER DUE Monday, Dec. 5

Week 14 (Dec. 6-8): REVOLUTION IN FRANCE AND SAINT-DOMINGUE

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

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

Week 15 (Dec. 13-15): 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, 223-262 (R)

David P. Jordan, "Napoleon as Revolutionary," 29-43 (R)

FINAL EXAM: Sat., December 17 at 2:45