

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

SEMESTER I YEAR '74

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
378	Old Regime and the French Revolution	Marv Anglim

COURSE DESCRIPTION

I think that the major problem facing historians of the Revolution is whether--and how-- a Marxist or class interpretation can be applied. The primary objective of the course is, therefore, to review both the class interpretation and its critiques, and to help the student to think about the problems involved in each of these positions. The first half of the course will concentrate on 18th-century France, with emphasis on social and economic structure and on efforts at fiscal and political reform. The underlying question here will be that of "revolutionary situation." What does the term mean? Was there such a situation in France before 1789? The second half of the course will deal with the Revolution, and I hope to discuss such problems as: the dynamics of the Revolution, the role of violence and class conflict in this dynamic, the participation or non-participation of various social groups and geographic regions; the achievements and failures of the Revolution.

LECTURES Two 75-minute lectures per week, with class discussion of readings scheduled either during or outside of this time.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS Graduate students will write one 10-page review paper, and the final. Undergraduates may choose one of several options: weekly diary; 6- and 12-week exams; or major research paper. All will do a take-home final.

GRADING SYSTEM Will be based mostly on student's ability to analyze readings and discuss problems raised in the course.

REQUIRED READINGS Selections from Montesquieu's Persian Letters and Rousseau's Social Contract and Essay on the Origins of Social Inequality; Alfred Cobban, History of Modern France, v. I., and Social Interpretation of the French Revolution; Georges Lefebvre, Coming of the French Revolution and The Great Fear; Albert Soboul, The Sans-Culottes; George Rude, The Crowd in the French Revolution; Richard Cobb, The Police and the People; J. Kan'ow, France on the Eve of Revolution, and several articles placed on reserve.