

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester I, 1990-91

HISTORY 572: Eighteenth-Century France: Society, Culture, & Revolution  
Prof. Desan  
5124 Humanities

This course will address various aspects of popular culture, social history, and popular politics in eighteenth-century France. After a brief introduction to the structure of Old Regime society and government, the first half of the course will focus on the lifestyle, beliefs, and practices of the urban and rural popular classes on the eve of the Revolution. The second part of the course will ask what impact the revolutionary decade had on the political perceptions and traditional habits of the French people.

The seven books marked with an asterisk (\*) have been ordered at the Rainbow bookstore (426 West Gilman) and placed on reserve at H.C. White. Other articles and documents are in a packet available at Kinko's at 620 University Avenue.

Week 1: (Sept 5) INTRODUCTION

PART I: OLD REGIME FRANCE: POPULAR CULTURE

Week 2: (Sept 12) THE OLD REGIME: MONARCHY AND ARISTOCRACY

\*C.B.A. Behrens, The Ancien Régime, pp. 1-118

Selected documents: Bossuet, documents from Jeffrey Kaplow, France on the Eve of Revolution, pp. 35-70

Week 3: (Sept 19) PEASANTRY & RURAL POPULAR CULTURE

\*Peter Jones, The Peasantry in the French Revolution, Ch. 1

Louise Tilly, "The Food Riot as a Form of Political Conflict in France"

Robert Muchembled, Popular Culture and Elite Culture in France, 1400-1750, pp. 1-42, 183-235

Week 4: (Sept 26) URBAN CULTURE OF PARIS

\*Daniel Roche, The People of Paris, 1-94, 153-54, 160-94, 234-77

Jeffrey Kaplow, The Names of Kings: The Laboring Poor in Eighteenth-Century Paris, Conclusion

Week 5: (Oct 3) STREET LIFE & URBAN ENTERTAINMENT

\*Robert Isherwood, Farce and Fantasy: Popular Entertainment in Eighteenth-Century Paris, 1-97, 161-255

Week 6: (Oct 10) LITERARY UNDERGROUND OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Isser Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp. 231-64

\*Robert Darnton, The Literary Underground of the Old Regime, pp.

1-148

\*Roche, People of Paris, pp. 197-233

Week 7: (Oct 17) WOMEN, WORK, AND THE FAMILY

Jean-Louis Flandrin, Families in Former Times: Kinship, Household, and Sexuality, pp. 112-173

Olwen Hufton, "Women and the Family Economy in Eighteenth-Century France"

Gay Gullickson, Spinners and Weavers of Auffay, pp. 68-85, 162-203

\*\* PAPER DUE on Friday, Oct. 19

Week 8: (Oct 24) THE CULTURE OF WORK

Robert Darnton, "Workers' Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre," from Great Cat Massacre: Episodes in French Cultural History

\*Darnton, Literary Underground, pp. 148-66

Cynthia Truant, "Solidarity and Symbolism among Journeymen Artisans: The Case of Compagnonage"

Michael Sonenscher, "Journeymen's Migrations and Workshop Organization in Eighteenth-Century France" in Work in France, eds. Steven Kaplan and Cynthia Koepf

PART II: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION & THE PEOPLE

Week 9: (Oct 31) BACKGROUND ON FRENCH REVOLUTION

\*Behrens, Ancien Régime, pp. 119-84

Eric Hobsbawm, "The French Revolution"

French Revolution documents: Sieyès, What is the Third Estate?; "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen"

Robert Darnton, "The Revolutionary Character of the French Revolution"

Week 10: (Nov 7) REVOLUTION IN CULTURE: SYMBOLS AND DRESS

\*Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution, 1-117

Jennifer Harris, "The Red Cap of Liberty: A Study of Dress Worn by French Revolutionary Partisans"

\*Albert Soboul, The Sans-Culottes, 223-50

Week 11: (Nov 14) REVOLUTION IN CULTURE II: THEATER & SONGS

Emmet Kennedy, A Cultural History of the French Revolution, pp. 235-92

Laura Mason, "Songs: Mixing Media," in The Revolution in Print, ed. Robert Darnton & Daniel Roche, pp. 252-69

James Johnson, "French Revolutionary Audiences and the Problem of Disbelief"

Week 12: (Nov 21) REVOLUTIONARY ACTORS AND CLASS

\*Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class, 149-212

\*Albert Soboul, The Sans-Culottes, pp. 1-62, 95-134, 158-62, 251-

64

Documents on Sans-Culottes, Keith M. Baker, ed. The Old Regime and the French Revolution, pp. 330-40

Week 13: (Nov 28) REVOLUTIONARY MOCKERY & COMMEMORATION

Mona Ozouf, Festivals and the French Revolution, pp. 83-118

Documents on festivals from K. Baker, The Old Regime and the French Revolution

Antoine de Baecque, "Pamphlets: Libel and Political Mythology" in Revolution in Print, pp. 165-76

Lynn Hunt, "The Many Bodies of Marie Antoinette"

Rolf Reichardt, "Prints: Images of the Bastille," in Revolution in Print, pp. 223-251

Week 14: (Dec 5) WOMEN AND URBAN REVOLUTION

Joan Landes, Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution, pp. 1-13, 93-151

Darlene Gay Levy, Harriet Branson Applewhite, Mary Durham Johnson, eds., Women in Revolutionary Paris, 1789-95, selected pages

Week 15: (Dec 12) PEASANTRY AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

\*Jones, The Peasantry in the French Revolution, 60-166, 206-70

Bryant Ragan, "Peasants and Rural Revolt"

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The most essential requirement for this course is to do the reading and participate actively in the discussions. Students will write two papers during the semester. The first paper will be short (5-6 pages), due on October 19. The topics will deal with reading in the course. The second paper will be longer (12-15 pages) and will require outside reading and research. This paper will explore some aspect of Old Regime or revolutionary culture among the popular classes. Students will choose the topic in consultation with me. Finally, everyone will also be responsible for presenting questions for the reading (twice) and doing an oral report on an outside reading during one week in the semester.