

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester II, 1992-93

History 707: THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

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Humanities 5124

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of France from the late sixteenth century through the French Revolution. We will pay particular attention to recent historiographical debates over method. We will study the Annales school, Marxist interpretations, the recent interest in political culture and gender, and various approaches to social history.

All books marked with an asterisk should be available at People's Bookstore on Gilman Street. There is also a packet of articles and documents available in the Humanities Copy Center.

Each student will write three medium-length papers (c. 9-10 pages) which will analyze and critique historiographical or methodological issues raised by the readings. If it is appropriate, one paper may be a research proposal on a topic chosen by the student. Students will also be responsible for leading the discussions in certain weeks.

WEEK 1 (January 25): INTRODUCTION

Those students who do not have much background in early modern French history may wish to use this period to read a survey such as Robin Briggs, Early Modern France.

WEEK 2 (Feb 1): THE WARS OF RELIGION

*Barbara Diefendorf, Beneath the Cross: Catholics and Huguenots in Sixteenth-Century Paris.

Natalie Zemon Davis, "The Rites of Violence," in her Society and Culture in Early Modern France, 152-87.

Week 3 (Feb 8): THE PEASANTRY: THE ANNALES APPROACH

*Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, The Peasants of Languedoc, 3-8, 132-71, 203-311, skim other sections.

Lynn Hunt, "French History in the Last Twenty Years: The Rise and Fall of the Annales Paradigm," Journal of Contemporary History 21 (1986): 209-224.

Roland Mousnier, "The Role of the Peasants in the French Revolts as a Whole between 1624 and 1648," in his Peasant Uprisings in Seventeenth-Century France, Russia, and China, 32-52.

Recommended (if not now in your life, then later):

*Robert Darnton, The Great Cat Massacre: Episodes in French Cultural History, chap. 1.

Week 4 (Feb 15): LOUIS XIV: THE MONARCHY & ABSOLUTIST STATE

*William Beik, Absolutism and Society in Seventeenth-Century France, 1-55, 98-116, 223-44, 279-339.

Jeffrey W. Merrick, The Desacralization of the French Monarchy in the Eighteenth Century, 1-48.

**PAPER DUE (9-10 pages), Friday, Feb 19 (Box #5031)

WEEK 5: (Feb 22) THE FAMILY AND PRIVATE LIFE

Roger Chartier, ed. The History of Private Life: Passions of the Renaissance, vol. 3, 397-447, 493-607.

Sarah Hanley, "Engendering the State: Family Formation and State Building in Early Modern France," French Historical Studies 16 (1989): 1-27.

Week 6 (Mar 1): ARTISAN WORLDS: AUTOBIOGRAPHY, TRADITION, AND GENDER

*Louis Ménétra, Journal of My Life, ed. Daniel Roche, vii-105, 243-98

Mary Ann Clawson, "Early Modern Fraternalism and the Patriarchal Family," Feminist Studies 6 (1980): 368-91.

*Robert Darnton, "Workers' Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre," from The Great Cat Massacre, 75-104

Week 7 (Mar 15): SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Isser Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, 231-64

*Darnton, Great Cat Massacre, 145-263

Margaret Jacobs, Living the Enlightenment: Freemasonry and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Europe, ch. 8

Dena Goodman, "Governing the Republic of Letters: The Politics of Culture in the French Enlightenment," History of European Ideas 13 (1991): 183-99.

Week 8 (Mar 22): ENLIGHTENMENT: ROUSSEAU

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau, selection from The Discourse on the Origins of Inequality and The Social Contract, 153-58, 167-78, 210-46, 5-58, 136-47

*Carol Blum, Rousseau and the Republic of Virtue, 13-132

Week 9 (Mar 29): ORIGINS OF REVOLUTION 1: IDEOLOGY

*Roger Chartier, The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution, 1-66, skim 67-110, 111-98

Keith Baker, Inventing the French Revolution: Essays on French Political Culture in the Eighteenth Century, 167-99

Sarah Maza, "The Diamond Necklace Affair Revisited (1785-86): The Case of the Missing Queen," in Eroticism and the Body Politic, ed. Lynn Hunt, 63-89

** PAPER DUE (9-10 pages) on Fri. April 2

Week 10 (Apr 5): ORIGINS OF REV 2: MARXISTS vs. REVISIONISTS

*William Doyle, The Origins of the French Revolution, 1-77, 96-138, 178-213

Colin Jones, "Bourgeois Revolution Revivified: 1789 and Social Change," in Rewriting the French Revolution, ed. Colin Lucas, 69-119.

Week 11 (Apr 12): POPULAR POLITICS IN PARIS

*Albert Soboul, The Sans-Culottes, 1-134

Darlene Gay Levy and Harriet Branson Applewhite, "Women & Militant Citizenship in Revolutionary Paris" in Rebel Daughters: Women and the French Revolution, ed. Sara Melzer and Leslie Rabine, 79-101

Michael Sonenscher, "The Sans-culottes of the Year II: Rethinking the language of labor in revolutionary France," Social History 9 (1984): 301-328

*Louis Ménétra, Journal of My Life, ed. Daniel Roche, 217-40

Week 12 (Apr 19): REVOLUTION IN CULTURE

Lynn Hunt, "Review: Penser la Révolution française," History and Theory 20 (1981): 313-323

François Furet, "The Revolution is Over," from his Interpreting the French Revolution, 1-79 (ON RESERVE in HC White)

*Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution, 1-119

Week 13 (April 26): GENDER & THE REVOLUTION

*Joan Landes, Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution, 1-167, 201-206

Suzanne Desan, "'Constitutional Amazons': Jacobin Women's Clubs in the French Revolution," in Re-Creating Authority in Revolutionary France, ed. Bryant Ragan and Elizabeth Williams, 11-35.

*Blum, Rousseau and the Republic of Virtue, 204-15

Week 14 (May 3): THE TERROR

Colin Lucas, "Revolutionary Violence, the People, and the Terror," unpublished paper from Conference on the Terror in the French Revolution, Stanford, Dec 10-13, 1992.

*Soboul, Sans-Culottes, 158-223, 251-65

*Blum, Rousseau and the Republic of Virtue, 153-168, skim 169-203, 216-282

** Final PAPER DUE (9-10 pages) Friday, May 7.