History 707: THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

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Office Hours: Thurs. 1:30-3:30 PM  5120 Humanities (262-8694)

This course will focus on the social, cultural, and political history of France from the late seventeenth century through the French Revolution and Napoleon. We will pay particular attention to recent historiographical debates over method. We will study various approaches to the French Revolution, and recent work on state-building, colonization, the Enlightenment and public sphere, gender, and political culture.

All books marked with an asterisk should be available at the University Bookstore. All of the books are on reserve in HC White. There is also a crucial packet of all the other articles and chapters. It is available in the Humanities Copy Center at 1650 Humanities.

Each student will choose between two different options for the course's written work: 1.) write three medium-length papers (c. 10 p.) which will analyze and critique historiographical or methodological issues raised by the readings; OR 2.) write two short (5-6 p.) reviews or think pieces on method, and one long final paper (c. 20 p.) on a pertinent historiographical or methodological issue. In either of these options, 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 (JAN. 24): INTRODUCTION
Those students who do not have much background in early modern French history may wish to use this period to read in surveys, such as selected essays in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France (useful individual essays); Robin Briggs, Early Modern France (survey, mainly 17th c.); James Collins, The State in Early Modern France (mostly political history); Alfred Cobban, History of Modern France, 1715-1799, vol. 1 (older work; mainly 18th c. political history); or Colin Jones, The Great Nation: France from Louis XV to Napoleon (lively history).

WEEK 2 (JAN. 31): THE SOCIAL WORLD OF OLD REGIME FRANCE
**William Beik, A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France (Cambridge, UK, 2009), 1-64, 224-73

WEEK 3 (FEB. 7): THE EVOLVING ABSOLUTIST MONARCHY
Julian Swann, APolitics: Louis XV@ in William Doyle, ed. Old Regime France, 1648-1788 (Oxford, 2001), 195-222
**William Beik, A Social and Cultural History of Early Modern France, 313-341
**Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 209-419

WEEK 4 (FEB. 14): URBAN CULTURE & SOCIETY
**David Garrioch, The Making of Revolutionary Paris (Berkeley, 2002), read 1-11, skim 15-63, read 64-206, 260-82
**Daniel Roche, France in the Enlightenment, 641-73
WEEK 5 (FEB. 21): THE NOBILITY
Brian Sandberg, Warrior Pursuits: Noble Culture and Civil Conflict in Early Modern France (Baltimore, 2010), xv-xvii, 79-113, 151-185, 253-92
**David Bell, The First Total War: Napoleon’s Europe and the Birth of Warfare as we Know It (Boston, 2007), 1-51
NB: This week we will most likely meet Tuesday evening and have a visit from Brian Sandberg.

**PAPER DUE, Friday, Feb. 24 (Box #5013)

WEEK 6 (FEB. 28): COLONIZATION & RACE IN ST-DOMINGUE
Stewart R. King, Blue Coat or Powdered Wig: Free People of Color in Pre-revolutionary Saint-Domingue (Athens, GA., 2001), 158-201

WEEK 7 (MAR. 6): APPROACHES TO THE AGE OF LETTERS
**Dena Goodman, Becoming A Woman in the Age of Letters (Ithaca, NY, 2009), 1-99, skim 100-132, read 133-198, skim 199-244, read 247-73, 307-337

WEEK 8 (MAR. 13): THE ORIGINS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
**Paul R. Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution (Oxford, 2009), 1-34

WEEK 9 (MAR. 20): THE EARLY REVOLUTION: THE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY
**Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight (Cambridge, Mass., 2003), 1-56, 83-223
**Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 35-86
**PAPER DUE on Monday, March 26

WEEK 10 (MAR 27): REVOLUTIONARY RADICALIZATION & FURET'S INTERPRETATION
**Peter McPhee, The French Revolution (Oxford, 2002), 89-153
**Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 87-126

WEEK 11 (APRIL 10): INTERPRETING THE TERROR
**Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 159-184
**Dan Edelstein, The Terror of Natural Right: Republicanism, the Cult of Nature, and the French Revolution (Chicago, 2009), 1-25, 45-86, 126-275
WEEK 12 (APRIL 17): POLITICAL CULTURE
Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1984), 19-51, 87-119

WEEK 13 (APRIL 24): THERMIDOR AND THE DIRECTORY
**Hanson, Contesting the French Revolution, 127-142
**McPhee, The French Revolution, 154-204

WEEK 14 (MAY 1): NAPOLEON
**Martyn Lyons, Napoleon Bonaparte and the Legacy of the French Revolution (NY, 1994), read 60-76, skim 77-110, read 111-128, skim 129-41, read142-259, skim 260-77, read 278-300
**David Bell, The First Total War: Napoleon’s Europe and the Birth of Warfare as we Know It (Boston, 2007), 186-301

WEEK 15 (MAY 8): REVOLUTION IN THE COLONIES
Laurent Dubois, “Our Three Colors: The King, the Republic and the Political Culture of Slave Revolution in Saint-Domingue,” Historical Reflections 29:1 (Spring 2003): 83-102

** FINAL PAPER DUE on Mon., May 14