History 336: The French Revolution and Napoleon

MTWR 12-1:30
229 McKenzie

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Office Hours: MTW 2-3pm.

Description
This course surveys the transition from the Old Regime to the Modern Age in Europe from 1789-1815. The focus of the course will be the culture of politics, including the practices of modern democracy, nationalism, imperialism, authoritarianism and the language of human rights took root during this time, as well as the means of resistance to these ideologies. Experiments in political culture during the French Revolution still inform politics today. Political and military history will provide the guiding narrative of the course, but themes of gender and cultural history will also be introduced.

Assignments
A midterm on Thursday, July 5 (30%)
A final exam on Thursday, July 19 (40%)
One paper, due Monday July 23 by noon (30%)

Participation in class discussion may contribute to an improved course grade in certain cases. Significant improvement in performance will also be considered in assessing the final grade.

Attendance in class is mandatory. Missing more than three classes will result in automatic failure of the course.

Course Paper
The purpose of this paper is to give students an opportunity to study in depth a particular aspect of French history within the time period as well as to expose them to critical reading of historiography. The required length of the paper is 7 pages (double-spaced 12-point type), approximately 2100 words. The paper must be submitted both in paper form and electronically through SafeAssign on Blackboard.

Selecting a book:
Using the bibliography provided in the syllabus, select one monograph on a topic that interests you. You will need to decide on your book by Monday July 2, so begin your selection process promptly. Books not available from the UO library can likely be accessed through WorldCat or Summit. You are not expected to purchase the book, although you are of course free to do so. Before committing to a book, make sure there are at least two scholarly reviews of a book available. Contact me if there are problems with this, as sometimes very recently published works have not yet been reviewed.
The paper should include a description of the subject matter of the book, and a discussion of the main argument with attention to how the author develops the argument through an analysis of significant events. Students should also identify and evaluate the source material used by the author. The paper should conclude with a thorough evaluation of the book. How persuasive is the author’s argument? What flaws or areas for improvement are there? Why and to whom might this book be useful? The book review must also reference at least two scholarly reviews of the book and respond to the critiques offered by these other reviewers. Information on how to find these will be provided in class.

Bring two copies of a draft of your paper to class on Wednesday, July 18. Part of the class time will be set aside to exchange your paper with classmates for vetting and feedback.

**Academic Honesty**
Students should review University policies regarding plagiarism. Any instance of a student using another’s work and passing it off as his/her own is plagiarism. This includes but is not limited to paraphrasing without citing, purchasing papers online, copying a friend, copying paragraphs from internet or print sources and reusing papers from past terms. Plagiarism is intellectual theft and when demonstrated will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Flagrant plagiarism will result in a possible grade of no pass in the course as well as academic disciplinary action.

**Examinations**
The midterm examination will be held in lieu of lecture on Thursday, July 4th. Bring a green book

The Final examination will be held in lieu of lecture on Thursday, July 19th. Bring a green book.

**Course Materials:**
Owen Connelly, *The French Revolution and Napoleonic Era* (Used online $20)
Lynn Hunt, *The French Revolution and Human Rights* (Online $7-13)
Documents on Blackboard

Please do the readings for each day before class.

**Week 1**
**Monday June 25: Social Orders and the Basis of Monarchic Authority**
*What social tensions and political problems existed in French monarchical system?*
Tuesday June 26 Enlightenment, Social Criticisms and Salons
Readings:
Connelly, 3-44
Denis Diderot “Encyclopedia: Natural Law” (Hunt 35-37)
Zalkind Hourwitz “Vindication of the Jews” (Hunt 48-50)

Wednesday June 27: Monarchy, Financial Crisis and the Estates General
Readings:
Sample Cahiers de Doléances (Blackboard)
“Petition of women of the Third Estate to the King” (Hunt, 60-63)
Abbé Sieyès “What is the Third Estate” (Hunt 63-70)

Thursday June 28: The Bastille and Beyond
Readings:
Connelly, 64-96.
August 4 Decrees (Blackboard)
“The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen” (Hunt 77-79)

Week 2
Monday July 2: Failure of the Constitutional Government
Readings:
The Death of Louis XVI (Blackboard)
The execution of Louis XVI (Blackboard)
The Indictment of the King (Blackboard)
Connelly, 99-117

You must commit to a book to review today

Tuesday July 3:
Individual Rights and Social Representation: The Revolution and Women, the Revolution in the Colonies
The Abolition of Negro Slaver or Means for Ameliorating Their Lot (Hunt 101-102)
Vincent Ogé “Motion to the Assembly of Colonists (Hunt 103-104)
Barnave on Abolition (Hunt 109-111)
Kersaint “Trouble in the Colonies” (Hunt 112-115).
Condorcet “On the Admission of Women” (Hunt 119-121)
Olympe de Gouges “Declaration of the Rights of Woman (Hunt 124-129)

Wednesday July 4 NO CLASS – Celebrate safely!

Thursday July 5: MIDTERM, BRING A GREEN BOOK
Week 3
Monday July 9: The Republic in Danger and the Rationale for Terror/ Conservative Reaction and Genocide?
   Readings:
   Connelly, 121-153
   The Revolutionary Tribunal (Blackboard)
   French Foreign Policy/Law of Suspects (Blackboard)
   The Committee of Public Safety and a complaint against the terror (Blackboard)
   Law of 22 Prarial (Blackboard)

Tuesday July 10: Cultural Aspects of the Revolution/ The Thermidorian Reaction and the White Terror
   Readings:
   Connelly, 154-168
   Robespierre’s last speech (Blackboard)
   A note on the Revolutionary Calendar (Blackboard)
   A trip to Paris, 1792 (Blackboard)

Wednesday July 11: The Directory and the Rise of Napoleon
   Readings:
   Connelly 169-199
   Napoleon’s account of the coup d’état (Blackboard)
   The Concordat (Blackboard)
   Select Provisions of the Napoleonic Code (Blackboard)

Thursday July 12: Napoleon’s political system, 1804-12
   Readings:
   Staël, chapters 1-7, 18 (Blackboard) (28 pages total)

Week 4 Rise of Napoleon
Monday July 16: The continental system and the Peninsular war 1806-13

Tuesday July 17: From Moscow to Waterloo 1812-15
   Readings:
   Connelly, 228-234, 318-346
   Napoleon enters Moscow (Blackboard)
   Accounts of Waterloo (Blackboard)

Wednesday July 18: Legacies of the French Revolution

   Bring two copies of a draft of your paper to class for classmates to critique and edit.

Thursday July 19 FINAL EXAM
Bibliography for Reviews

Cole, Juan. *Napoleon’s Egypt: Invading the Middle East* (2008)
Edelstein, Dan. *The terror of natural right: republicanism, the cult of nature and the French Revolution*
Friedland, Paul. *Political Actors: Representative Bodies and Theatriality in the Age of the French Revolution*


Tackett, Timothy, *When the King took flight* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003)