Professor Helena Rosenblatt

History 72110-The French Revolution Then and Now

Wednesday 4:15-6:15 p.m. 3 credits

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Course Description:

This course is an in-depth introduction to the French Revolution and the heated debates it has engendered. We will privilege political/cultural/intellectual perspectives, focusing on the Revolution's relationship with "modernity" and its various ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, totalitarianism, fascism, feminism, terrorism.) Scholarship on the French Revolution will be placed in historical and political context in an effort to answer the question: "what is at stake when scholars adopt certain methodologies and perspectives on the French Revolution?"

Course Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to
*Read texts more critically and effectively
*Identify and summarize key ideas in texts in an articulate and persuasive manner, verbally and in writing
*Demonstrate a command of the narrative and major events of the French Revolution
*Display a grasp of some of the main ideological debates connected to the French Revolution

Course Requirements:

*Regular and intelligent class participation demonstrating thorough reading of all assigned materials: 30%
*One-page analytical summaries of the weekly readings and two interesting discussion questions for every class: 30% (Summaries must be handed to me at the beginning of class; questions must be emailed to me and the class by 8 a.m. on Tuesday) (TEN over the course of the term)
*A 15-20 page historiographical paper on one week’s readings (including some of the recommended readings.) Topics must be decided and approved by Nov. 7; final paper submitted by Dec. 12. No late papers will be accepted. 40%

(GUIDES TO THE WEEKLY READINGS WILL BE PROVIDED)

To get the most out of the course, students are advised to read at least one of the following recommended surveys of the Revolution:


**Aug 29 Introduction: The Invention of Ideology**

**Sept. 5 The Overthrow of the Marxist Paradigm**

**REQUIRED:**

François Furet, *Interpreting the French Revolution (Penser la Révolution française)*

You may skip the last two chapters (“De Tocqueville and the Problem of the French Revolution” and “Augustin Cochin: The Theory of Jacobinism”)

**Recommended:**


E.J. Hobsbawm, *Echoes of the Marseillaise*


Steven Laurence Kaplan, *Farewell, Revolution*
Sept. 12 Revisionism

REQUIRED:

Simon Schama, *Citizens*

RECOMMENDED


Sept. 19 NO CLASS

Sept 26 Conservatism

REQUIRED


Oct 3 Fascism

REQUIRED


RECOMMENDED:

Carolina Armenteros, *The French Idea of History: Joseph de Maistre and his Heirs*
Richard Lebrun, *Joseph de Maistre: An Intellectual Militant*

Darrin M. McMahon, *Enemies of the Enlightenment: The French Counter-Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity*

**Oct 10 Feminism**

**REQUIRED**

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
You may skip chapter V

Olympe de Gouges, *The Declaration of the Rights of Woman*

https://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/293/

**RECOMMENDED**

Suzanne Desan, *The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France*


Olwen Hufton, *Women and the Limits of Citizenship in the French Revolution*


Joan B. Landes, *Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution*

**Oct. 17 Rousseau**

**REQUIRED**

Selections from Rousseau’s *Social Contract* (to be provided)

RECOMMENDED


SBN:0804738645

Oct 20 Terror/ Totalitarianism

REQUIRED:


RECOMMENDED


Oct 27 Liberalism

**REQUIRED:**


Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty”
https://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/fileadmin/wiso_vwl/johannes/Ankuendigungen/Berlin_twoconceptsofliberty.pdf

**RECOMMENDED:**

Aurelian Craiutu, *A Virtue for Courageous Minds. Moderation in French Political Thought*


*French Liberalism from Montesquieu to the Present Day*, Raf Geenens and Helena Rosenblatt eds.

George Kelly, *Constant, Tocqueville and French Liberalism*


Oct 31 SECULARIZATION

**REQUIRED:**
Timothy Tackett, “The French Revolution and Religion to 1794” article to be provided

Suzanne Desan, “The French Revolution and Religion, 1795-1815” article to be provided

Mona Ozouf, “The Revolutionary Festival: A Transfer” article to be provided

**RECOMMENDED**


**Nov 7 Sister Revolutions**

**REQUIRED:**


**RECOMMENDED**

Lloyd Kramer, *Lafayette in Two Worlds: Public Cultures and Personal Identities in the Age of Revolutions*

Rachel Hope Cleve, *The Reign of Terror in America: Visions of Violence From Anti-Jacobinism to Anti-Slavery*

François Furstemberg, *When the United States Spoke French: Five Refugees Who Shaped a Nation*

Phillip Ziesche, *Cosmopolitan Patriots: Americans in Paris in the Age of Revolution*

**Nov 14 Nationalism**

**REQUIRED:**

**RECOMMENDED:**

David A. Bell, *The First Total War. Napoleon’s Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It*.


T.C. W. Blanning, *The Origins of the French Revolutionary Wars*

T.C. W. Blanning, *The French Revolutionary Wars 1787-1802*

**Nov 21 No classes**

**Nov 28 The Haitian Revolution**

**REQUIRED:**


**RECOMMENDED:**

Laurent Dubois, *A Colony of Citizens: Revolution and Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804*

Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*


David Patrick Geggus, *Haitian Revolutionary Studies*

C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L’Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*

James E. McClellan III, *Colonialism and Science: Saint Domingue in the Old Regime,*

Pierre Serna, ed. *Républiques soeurs; Le Directoire et la Révolution atlantique*
Dec. 5 Global Revolutions

REQUIRED

*The Age of Revolutions in a Global Context* c. 1760-1840, ed. David Armitage, pages TBA

*The French Revolution in Global Perspective*, eds. Suzanne Desan, Lynn Hunt and William Max Nelson, chapters 1-8

RECOMMENDED


Dec. 12 Concluding Discussion