Historians have long characterized the French Revolution as a civil war (revolution/counterrevolution), and historians of the Atlantic world have also employed that term; meanwhile, a famous article by Pierre Serna has made the point that “all revolutions are wars of independence.” That idea can be applied to the French themselves but also evokes a more global context, including that of decolonization in the Caribbean. This course will begin with those overarching ways of describing the French Revolution and examine their usefulness in regional, national, and international contexts. It will also highlight themes of generation and memory in the transition to the post-Revolutionary era and beyond. The first part of the course will focus on the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and develop those themes as conceptual tools to be applied, in the middle part, to a succession of moments of fracture and revolution in the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries (possibly including 1848, 1871, Vichy, Algeria, 1968, or recent debates over race and multiculturalism in France). The final part will provide an opportunity for students to apply the conceptual tools developed in the course to their own areas of research. Written work will include two short historiographical papers and a final paper that may be largely historiographical but will provide opportunities for work in primary sources.

Among the weekly assignments:


VIII. **Remembering and Forgetting.** Remembering 1848 in the Third Republic. Stacey Renee Davis, “Expectations of Aging as Gendered Political Discourse in 19th-century France,” *Enfances, Familles, Générations, Issue 27* (2017), *Âges de vie, genre et temporalités sociales.* Forgetting and Remembering the Paris Commune. John Merriman, *Massacre: The Life and Death of the Paris Commune* (Basic Books, 2014). **Final papers of 10-15 pages will balance students’ own interests with the common themes of the course. It is anticipated that some papers will be heavily historiographical while others will involve more primary source material. Details will be worked as the course progresses.**