Course Description:
This course is an in-depth introduction to the French Revolution and the debates surrounding it. We will privilege political/cultural/intellectual perspectives, reading some of the most innovative and thought-provoking work on a number of key topics, such as the causes of the Revolution and its radicalization; the nature and legacies of the revolutionary wars and Terror; the question of Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s influence; the Revolution’s performance in the areas of gender and race; and the ideologies it engendered.

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 scholarly debates surrounding 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 in to me at the beginning of class; questions must be emailed to me and the class by 8 a.m. on Monday)
* A 15-20 page historiographical paper on a topic chosen in consultation with me. Topics must be decided and approved by Nov. 7; final paper submitted by Dec. 12. No late papers will be accepted. 40%

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A DRAFT SYLLABUS—THE READINGS AND TOPICS ARE SUBJECT TO MINOR REVISION. THE FINAL VERSION WILL BE HANDED OUT IN CLASS ON THE FIRST DAY.

RECOMMENDED SURVEYS OF THE REVOLUTION:

Aug 29 Introduction

Sept 5 Labor Day—No Class

Sept 12 François Furet and Revisionism

REQUIRED:


RECOMMENDED:


Sept 19 New Approaches

REQUIRED

RECOMMENDED


(Other surveys listed above)

**Sept 26 Marie Antoinette**

REQUIRED


RECOMMENDED


Thomas Kaiser, “From the Austrian Committee to the Foreign Plot: Marie Antoinette, Austrophobia, and the Terror,” *French Historical Studies* 26, no. 4 (Fall 2003), pp. 579-617


**Oct 3 The “Liberal Phase”**
REQUIRED:


RECOMMENDED:


Oct 10 Columbus Day No Class

Oct 17 The King and Radicalization:


RECOMMENDED:


Oct. 24 The Terror

REQUIRED:


and


OR


RECOMMENDED

David Andress, *The Terror. The Merciless War for Freedom in Revolutionary France New"*


**Oct. 31** “Regeneration”

**REQUIRED:**


**RECOMMENDED**


**Nov 7** The Haitian Revolution

**REQUIRED**

or


RECOMMENDED


Nov 14. Women and the Family

REQUIRED:


RECOMMENDED:


Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution*. Berkeley: University of
Nov. 21 The Question of Rousseau

REQUIRED


RECOMMENDED:


Nov. 28 Revolutionary Legacies: War and Nationalism
REQUIRED


or


RECOMMENDED:


Dec 5 The Birth of Liberalism

REQUIRED:


RECOMMENDED:


Thomas Paine, *Rights of Man Being and Answer to Mr. Burke’s Attack on the French Revolution*

Dec 12 The Origins of Conservatism and Fascism?

REQUIRED


RECOMMENDED: