The French Revolution and Napoléon

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Course Outline

Week 1 Introduction; the Old Regime at Twilight; Writers, Censors, & Public Opinion; the Revolt of the Nobles and the Revolution of the Deputies

“Remonstrance against the Edict Suppressing the Corvée, 2-4 March 1776” and “Parlementary Argument against the Edict Suppressing the Guilds” in Keith M. Baker, ed., The Old Regime and the French Revolution, 119-123.

Week 2 Paris & the Bastille; the Great Fear and Revolution in the Countryside; Revolutionary Euphoria


Week 3 The Women of Paris at Versailles; the Revolution and the Catholic Church; the Royal Family Flees

read: Peter McPhee, The French Revolution, 64-88.
“Testimony of Master Jean-Louis Brousse des Faucherets,” 1790 [regarding the march to Versailles] (at course site)


**Week 4** France at War with Europe (the Revolution militarized); the Fall of the Monarchy and the King’s Trial; Counter-Revolution and the Vendée


David Bell, *The First Total War*, 84-119.


“Memoir of Madame de Sapinaud,” 1824

“Turreau’s report on the suppression of the Vendée,” 1794

“Memoir of General Turreau,” 1795

**Week 5** Defending the Revolution; the Terror; Dechristianization; the End of Terror


David Bell, *The First Total War*, 120-185.


**Week 6** mid-term examination; Gilded Youth and Thermidor


Week 7

End the Revolution? Napoléon Bonaparte and 18 Brumaire; Italy and Egypt

David Bell, *The First Total War*, 186-222.
Abd al-Rahman al-Jabarti, “Commentary on the Egyptian Campaign, including Napoléon Bonaparte’s Proclamation to the People of Egypt of 2 July 1798”

Week 8

Napoleonic Empire; Sacralizing Napoleonic Rule; Haiti & Spain

*read:* David Bell, *The First Total War*, 223-301.
“The Imperial Catechism,” April 1806
“The Continental System,” 21 November 1806
“Le Code Noir” (The Black Code), 1685.
Prophecy of Slave Rebellion from Louis-Sébastien Mercier *L’An deux mille quatre cent quarante*. 1771.
Léger Félicité Sonthonax, “Decree of General Liberty” 29 August 1793
Napoléon Bonaparte, “Instructions to General Leclerc” 1802-1803

Week 9

Russia and the Collapse of the Empire; The Restoration Remembers; History and the Uses of the Revolution

David Bell, *The First Total War*, 302-320.
Jakob Walter, “Foraging,” 1812
Jakob Walter, “The Crossing of the Berezina,” 1812
Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France, 1790. [excerpt]

Week 10

Memorial Day; second examination

**Required texts:** All required texts are available at the University Bookstore, other bookstores, the UW Libraries, and Summit

David Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It*.
Peter McPhee, *The French Revolution*.
Caroline Weber, *Queen of Fashion; What Marie-Antoinette Wore to the Revolution*. 
Assignments and due dates: essay topic and bibliography (4/22), first examination (4/30, 30% of grade), essay (due by 11:59pm on 5/20, ten pages, 35% of grade), second examination (5/30, 35% of grade).

You must complete all assignments in order to pass the course. Mark examination dates on your calendar now. A make-up examination will be offered only in the gravest of circumstances, for example, a death in the immediate family.

Class routine - lecture and discussion: This is a large course, but it is not a sectioned course. This means that we don’t have the luxury of small group discussion. On most class days, we will begin with lecture for the first hour, take a short break, then resume with lecture, discussion, or both in the second half of the class period. Please stay up-to-date with the primary source readings as these will provide the basis for our discussions. Please feel free to interrupt lecture to ask questions. There is no formal discussion grade, but your participation can make a difference in the case of borderline grades.

Essay assignment: Write an essay of no more than ten pages on any topic falling within the scope of the course. Your essay should be based on reading in at least four sources (books or articles in scholarly journals) in addition to required reading in the course. Your citations (footnotes or endnotes) should show how these sources were used in developing your essay.

By the date listed above under “Assignments and Due Dates” you must submit a brief statement (three or four sentences) in which you identify your topic. Then, list the four scholarly sources (books or articles) and primary source you intend to use. Please refer to information posted to course site for advice regarding the selection of your sources. You are encouraged also to see me after class or during office hours for advice about topics and sources. Once submitted, topics may not be changed without consultation.

Essays must be submitted by the due date and time. In the name of fairness, a penalty of 1/2 grade (0.5 grade point) will be assessed on papers submitted late. An additional penalty of 0.5 will be assessed with each passing week. Any essay submitted after our final class meeting will receive a grade of 0. Remember that you must complete all assignments in order to pass the course. If you fail to submit your essay by the final class meeting, you will not pass the course.