

HIST 5436: The French Revolution, 1789 - 1815

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Course Objectives:

This class aims to acquaint graduate students with the pivotal era of the French Revolution. Beyond examining the major events and issues of the period, students will explore some of the central contemporary and historiographic debates about the Revolution through reading a range of primary and secondary works and writing several related papers.

By the end of the term, students should be able to demonstrate mastery of the basic narrative of events as well as of the ability to analyze primary and secondary sources and the integration of those analyses into well-argued oral and written interpretations.

Required Texts:**•Primary Sources**

1. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (Penguin); pp. 49-187.
2. Marie-Jeanne Roland, *The Memoirs of Madame Roland: A Heroine of the French Revolution* (Moyer Bell); pp. 125-252 / pp. 27-121, 253-258.
3. Maximilien Robespierre, *Virtue and Terror* (Verso); pp. 3-141.
4. Joseph de Maistre, *Considerations on France* (Cambridge University Press, 1995); pp. 3-105.
5. François-René de Chateaubriand, *Atala/René* (University of California Press); pp. 17-114.
6. Jakob Walter, *The Diary of a Napoleonic Foot Soldier* (Penguin); pp. 3-111.

•Secondary Works

1. Georges Lefebvre, *The Coming of the French Revolution* (Princeton). 978-0691121888
2. François Furet, *Interpreting the French Revolution* (Cambridge), pp. 1-80. 978-0521280495
3. Richard Cobb, *The French and Their Revolution: Selected Writings* (New Press). 978-1565845404
4. Patrice Higonnet, *Goodness Beyond Virtue* (Harvard). 978-0674470620
5. Steven Englund, *Napoleon: A Political Life* (Harvard). 978-0674018037
6. Nigel Aston, *Religion and Revolution in France* (Catholic). 978-0813209777
7. Antoine de Baeque, *Glory and Terror: Seven Deaths Under the French Revolution* (Routledge). 978-0415926171

Grading and Policies:

Your final grade will be factored as follows:

Two 10 page Papers based on the primary and secondary sources	30% each
Participation	40%

For the schedule of lectures, discussions, and assignments see below.

Detailed information regarding the papers will be provided during the semester.

Participation, therefore, comprises forty percent of your final grade. For each of our discussion meetings, I expect you to have read the assigned works and to be ready to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of

their broad arguments and approaches. For the weeks we will discuss the books, see below; the exact dates will be determined during the first week of class.

I expect you to attend the lectures as detailed below in the lecture schedule. I am not asking you to attend the undergraduate discussions or exams; those will be replaced by our out-of-class discussions.

I also expect you to abide by the standards of conduct outlined in the UWG catalogue. Academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism, will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the course. I cannot imagine such problems occurring, but policies need to be stated, regardless.

Finally, I reserve the right to modify this syllabus during the semester if circumstances warrant. You will be informed at all times of any changes. If changes are substantial, I will issue a revised syllabus.

Lecture Schedule:

Week:	Monday:	Wednesday:	Friday:
01		01/07: Class Introduction	01/09: Some Geography – Europe and France in the Eighteenth Century
02	01/12: French Society in the Eighteenth Century	01/14: The Role of Religion The Nature of the Economy	01/16: Absolute Monarchy? The Enlightenment
03	01/19: <i>MLK, Jr. Day – No Class</i>	01/21: The Enlightenment, Continued	01/23:
04	01/26: France in the 18 th Century: From Regency to the Seven Years’ War	01/28: France in the 18 th Century: A Regime Collapses, 1763 – 1789	01/30:
05	02/02: 1789	02/04: 1789, Continued	02/06: Cracks Appear
06	02/09: The Failure of Liberal Revolution	02/11: The First Republic is Born	02/13:

07	02/16: The Nature of War in the Ancien Régime	02/18: Revolutionary War, 1792 - 1793	02/20: 1793 – The Year of Crisis
08	02/23: The Terror	02/25: The Terror, Continued	02/27:
09	03/02: The Culture of Revolution	03/04: The Thermidorian Reaction	03/06:
10	03/09: The Directory Regime, 1795 – 1799	03/11: Critics of the Revolution	03/13:
11	03/16: <i>Spring Break – No Class</i>	03/18: <i>Spring Break – No Class</i>	03/20: <i>Spring Break – No Class</i>
12	03/23: Revolution Abroad – The Revolt in Saint Dominique	03/25: The Directory Collapses Napoleon’s Rise	03/27: Further Glory – Egypt
13	03/30: The Consulate	04/01: The Consulate, Continued	04/03: The Romantic Hero
14	04/06: <u>Discuss: Chateaubriand</u> (pp. 3-105)	04/08: From Consulate to Empire	04/10: Napoleon’s Reorganization of Europe
15	04/13: Resisting Napoleon: The Haitian Revolution	04/15: Resisting Napoleon: The Peninsular War	04/17: Dominating Europe, 1807 – 1812
16	04/20: Napoleon’s France	04/22: The 1812 Campaign	04/23:

17	04/27: The Collapse of Napoleon's Empire	04/29: Legacies of the Revolution	
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Discussion Schedule:

We will arrange a time to meet outside of class that fits everyone's schedule. I would like those discussions to fall in the weeks marked below:

Discussion:	Book(s):	Week:
1.	Rousseau (see pages listed above) Roland (see pages listed above)	3 (01/19 – 01/23)
2.	Lefebvre (all) Cobb (all) Furet (see pages listed above)	7 (02/16 – 02/20)
3.	Robespierre (see pages listed above)	8 (03/02 – 03/06)
4.	Higonnet (all) de Baeque (all)	10 (03/09 – 03/13)
5.	de Maistre (see pages listed above) Chateaubriand (see pages listed above)	13 (03/30 – 04/03)
6.	Aston (all)	14. (04/06 – 04/10)
7.	Walter (see pages listed above)	15. (04/13 – 04/17)
8.	Englund (all)	16. (04/20 – 04/23)

Assignment Schedule

Paper One will be due Monday, March 23.

Paper Two will be due Monday, May 4.