

Laura Mason
Gilman 344

lmason@jhu.edu
office hours: Tu 2:45-3:30
Th 2:45-4:00

AS 100.310 The French Revolution
Spring 2017
Tu, Th 1:30-2:45

The French Revolution was one of the modern world's first great revolutions. In a single decade, it moved through periods of liberalism, radicalism, reaction and conservatism before falling prey to the ambitions of Napoleon Bonaparte. Although we no longer assume that the French Revolution offers a template by which to judge or forecast the course of all subsequent revolutions, it remains a vibrant historical moment that helps us better understand regime change, political radicalization and polarization, compromise and negotiation, and social and cultural change across time.

As this course introduces students to the social, political, and cultural history of the French Revolution, we pose questions essential to understanding it. How and why did the Revolution begin? Whose interests did it serve? Why did it radicalize? How could the nation bring it to an end? What were its long-term consequences? We will attempt to answer such questions by weighing evidence from the period against scholars' retrospective arguments, discussing hypotheses generated by the texts and producing well-documented arguments.

Course Requirements

Reading: There will be about 100 pp. of reading per wk. (Except for one week of Tackett, when there will be about 150 pp) In weeks with shorter assignments, look ahead to more demanding assignments and balance your workload accordingly. Mark your texts and bring hard copy to class for easy reference. I may propose more specific questions from week to week but always keep the following general questions in mind: Are you reading a primary or secondary source, and why does that matter? What does the author argue? What kind of evidence does s/he use? How does this reading build on or complicate issues raised previously? What is your opinion of the author's arguments? What evidence supports your interpretation?

Lectures & Discussion: With few exceptions, class will be divided evenly between discussion and lecture. We will begin with discussion each day, so bring hard copy of your texts to class (no computer screens during discussion) and be ready to refer to them. Participation is vital because it helps students make sense of new ideas by asking informed questions and sharing opinions based on a growing body of knowledge. Know your materials in advance, be prepared to listen and to critically engage what others say.

A note on attendance: because we work as a collective, attendance is vital. Students are allowed two un-excused absences. Under ordinary circumstances, each additional absence will lower your participation grade by 1/3 (from B+ to B, etc).

Writing: *Two 5-6 pp. take-home midterms, one 6-8 pp. take-home final; one weekly Blackboard post* that proposes discussion questions based on assigned texts (due by 10 a.m. day of class). **No late papers without prior arrangement.**

Grades	
Blackboard Posts	10%
Participation	15%
1 st Midterm	20%
2 nd Midterm	25%
Final Exam	30%

JHU POLICIES

Students with Disabilities: In compliance with JHU policy and equal access laws, I will discuss appropriate academic accommodations you may require. Requests should be made in the first week of classes to facilitate arrangements. Students are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Disability Services to determine appropriate accommodations. For more information contact Dr. Richard Sanders in Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720 or studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to comply with University regulations for academic integrity. If you are in doubt about what constitutes academic dishonesty, speak to me before an assignment is due and examine the University web site. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper (e.g., taking material from readings without citation, copying another student's paper). Failure to maintain academic integrity on an assignment will result in a loss of credit for that assignment—at a minimum. Other penalties may also apply. Guidelines for determining academic dishonesty and procedures followed in a suspected incident of academic dishonesty are detailed on the website. For more information, visit: <http://ethics.jhu.edu>

Required Texts

Peter McPhee, *The French Revolution, 1789-1799*

Laura Mason & Tracey Rizzo (eds) *The French Revolution: A Document Collection*

Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight*

Schedule

Tu Jan 31 Introduction to the Course

The Old Regime & the Origins of the French Revolution

Th Feb 2 McPhee, *The French Revolution* pp 4-24

Fr Rev Docs pp. 16-23

Tu Feb 7 The Enlightenment and the Question of Intellectual Origins

McPhee, *The French Revolution* pp.24-49

Diderot from "Encyclopédie;" Voltaire, "Reflections on Religion;" Montesquieu from "Spirit of the Laws;" Rousseau from "Social Contract." Isaac Kramnick (ed) *The Portable Enlightenment* pp. 17-21, 115-19; 405-415, 430-441

Th Feb 9 Financial Crisis & Breakdown
Michael Kwass, "A Kingdom of Taxpayers: State Formation, Privilege, and Political Culture in Eighteenth-Century France," *Journal of Modern History* v.70 # 2 (June 1998) pp. 295-339

Tu Feb 14 From Reform to Revolution
McPhee, *The French Revolution* pp. 50-63
French Rev Docs pp. 24-32, 49-66

A New Regime

Th Feb 16 Revolution in the Countryside
Fr Rev Docs pp. 67-75, 125-132
* Peter McPhee, *Living the French Revolution* pp. 35-76
* *This is not a chapter from the textbook but a reading on reserve*

Tu Feb 21 Creating a New Regime
McPhee, *The French Revolution* pp. 64-88
Fr Rev Docs pp. 89-97, 98-124
Shanti Singham, "Betwixt Cattle and Men: Jews, Blacks, and Women and the Declaration of the Rights of Man," Dale Van Kley (ed) *The French Idea of Freedom: The Old Regime and the Declaration of Rights of 1789* pp. 114-153
**** Hand out take-home midterm #1**

Th Feb 23 No class. Midterm due Fr Feb 24 by 6 pm
Send as Word doc to lmason@jhu.edu

The Breakdown of the New Regime

Tu Feb 28 New Divisions
Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* pp. 1-76

Th Mar 2 The Birth of Democracy
Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* pp. 76-150

Tu Mar 7 Foreign Relations & the March to War
Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* pp. 151-178

Republican Revolution, Crisis and Renewal

Th Mar 9 August Revolution & the King's trial
Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* pp. 179-223
McPhee, *The French Revolution* pp.89-108
Fr Rev Docs pp. 157-87

Tu Mar 14 Revolution in the Colonies I

Laurent Dubois & John Garrigus, *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean* pp. 7-22, 49-53, 57-62, 65-70

Th Mar 16 Revolution in the Colonies II
Laurent Dubois, "The Price of Liberty": Victor Hugues and the Administration of Freedom in Guadeloupe," *The William and Mary Quarterly*, v. 56 # 2, pp. 363-392

Mar 20-24 Spring Break

Tu Mar 28 Popular Revolution
McPhee, *The French Revolution* pp. 109-30
French Rev Docs pp. 197-208, 221-36, 244-54
Suzanne Desan, "Constitutional Amazons: Jacobin Women's Clubs in the French Revolution," Bryant Ragan & Elizabeth Williams (eds), *Recreating Authority in Revolutionary France* pp. 11-35

Th Mar 30 Federalism & counter-revolution
French Rev Docs pp. 214-220
Olwen Hufton, "In Search of Counter-Revolutionary Women," Gary Kates (ed) *The French Revolution: Recent Debates and New Controversies* 1st edition (1998) pp. 302-333

**** Hand out take-home midterm #2**

Tu Apr 4 No class. Midterm due by 6 pm
Send as Word doc to lmason@jhu.edu

Th Apr 6 Improving the Nation
McPhee, *The French Revolution* pp. 131-153
Jean-Pierre Gross, *Fair Shares for All* pp. 64-92
French Rev Docs pp. 240-42

Tu Apr 11 Policing the Nation: the Terror
French Rev Docs pp. 236-38, 240-43, 254-262
David Jordan, *The Revolutionary Career of Maximilien Robespierre* pp. 150-184

Ending the Revolution

Th Apr 13 Thermidor
McPhee, *The French Revolution* pp. 154-162
French Rev Docs pp. 263-269, 277-79
Ronen Steinberg, "Terror on Trial: Accountability, Transitional Justice, and the Affaire Le Bon in Thermidorian France," *French Historical Studies* vol. 39 #3 (August 2016) pp. 419-444

- Tu Apr 18 Thermidor
French Rev Docs pp. 270-275
 Andrew Jainchill, "The Constitution of the Year III," *Reimagining Politics after the Terror* pp. 26-61
- Th Apr 20 The Directory
 McPhee, *The French Revolution* pp. 163-177
French Rev Docs pp. 288-300
 John Anthony Scott (ed) *The Defense of Gracchus Babeuf* pp. 32-60
- Tu Apr 25 The Directory
French Rev Docs pp. 306-10, 328-33
 Suzanne Desan, "Redefining Revolutionary Liberty: The Rhetoric of Religious Revival during the French Revolution," *Journal of Modern History* vol. 60 #1 (Mar 1988) pp. 1-27
- Th Apr 27 Napoleon
 Rafe Blaufarb, "Napoleon: The Man and his Times," *Napoleon: Symbol for an Age* pp. 1-23, 28-29
 Isser Woloch, "Organizing Power," *Napoleon and his Collaborators: the Making of a Dictatorship* pp. 36-65

The Meaning of it All

- Tu May 2 Pierre Serna, "Every Revolution is a War of Independence," Suzanne Desan, Lynn Hunt, Wm. Max Nelson (eds) *The French Revolution in Global Perspective* pp. 165-82
 David Bell, "Questioning the Global Turn: The Case of the French Revolution," *French Historical Studies* vol. 37 #1 (Winter 2014) pp. 1-24

Hand out take-home final.

Th May 4 No class.

**We May 10 Final Exam due @ 5 pm (Early exams accepted and encouraged)
 Send as Word doc to lmason@jhu.edu**