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 its own government. 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.

This course introduces you to the social, political, and cultural history of the French Revolution, posing 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) Look ahead to more demanding assignments during weeks with shorter assignments to balance your workload. Mark texts and bring hard copy to class for easy reference. I will propose specific questions from week to week but always keep in mind the following general questions: Are you reading a primary or secondary source? Why does that matter? What does the author argue? What kind of evidence do they use? How does this reading build on or complicate issues raised previously? What is your opinion of the author’s arguments? Can you march all evidence to support your interpretation?

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

A note on attendance: Attendance is essential to facilitate our work as a collective. 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

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Blackboard Posts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Midterm</td>
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<td>2nd Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Students with Disabilities: In compliance with Johns Hopkins University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate accommodations you may require. Request for accommodations should be made in the first week of the semester. Students are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Disability Services to determine appropriate accommodations. For more info contact the director [410-516-8075/studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu] and/or visit the disability accommodations webpage: https://advanced.jhu.edu/student-resources/disability-services/disability-accommodations/

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 will result, at a minimum, in a loss of credit for the assignment in question. Other penalties may also apply. Guidelines for determining academic dishonesty and procedures followed in a suspected incident of academic dishonesty are detailed at http://ethics.jhu.edu

Counseling and Mental Health. College is a time of major transition, change, and growth that can be both exciting and stressful in the best of times. At times, these challenges may feel overwhelming, making it difficult to manage daily demands. The Counseling Center provides a safe, confidential, nonjudgmental space where students may explore a wide concerns and issues. https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/counselingcenter/

Required Texts
Peter McPhee, Liberty or Death; the French Revolution
Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight
Blackboard Reserves

Schedule
Mo Jan 24   Introduction

The Old Regime
We Jan 26   McPhee, Liberty or Death pp. 1-22
Charles Loyseau, A Treatise on Orders (1610) Fr Rev Docs pp. 16-23

Origins of the French Revolution
Mo Jan 31   McPhee, Liberty or Death pp.23-57

We Feb 2    Jacques Necker, Preface to the King’s Accounts (1781); Parlement de Paris, Remonstrance on the 3rd Vingtième (1782) French Rev Docs pp. 29-31
From Reform to Revolution
Mo Feb 7  McPhee, *Liberty or Death* pp. 58-80
Abbé Sieyès, *What is the Third Estate?*; Cahiers de Doléances; *Declaration of the National Assembly & Tennis Court Oath, French Rev Docs* pp. 51-61

We Feb 9  William Sewell, “Historical Events as Structural Transformations: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille,” *Theory & Society* v. 25 #6 (Dec 96) pp. 841-881

Remaking France
Mo Feb 14  Peter McPhee, *Living the French Revolution* pp. 35-76
Rural revolution, *Fr Rev Docs* pp. 67-75, 125-132

We Feb 16  McPhee, *Liberty or Death* pp. 81-101
“Legislating an Enlightened Regime,” *Fr Rev Docs* pp. 98-124

Mo Feb 21  McPhee, *Liberty or Death* pp. 102-132
Municipal Council of Tours vs. Tours Society of Friends; Royal veto; Jacobins; Debate over the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, *Fr Rev Docs* pp. 138-152
** Hand out take-home midterm #1

We Feb 23  No class. Midterm due Sat Feb 26 by 6 pm
Send as Word doc to lmason@jhu.edu

The Breakdown of the New Regime
Mo Feb 28  Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* pp. 1-76

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

Mo Mar 7  Foreign Relations & the March to War
Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* pp. 151-223

Republican Revolution, Crisis and Renewal
We Mar 8  August Revolution & the King's trial
McPhee, *Liberty or Death* pp. 142-163
Speeches on war; the *Marseillaise*; Deposing the king; September Massacres, *Fr Rev Docs* pp. 159-167.
Morrison & Condorcet, speeches on the king’s trial.

Mo Mar 14  Revolution in the Colonies I
Laurent Dubois & John Garrigus, *Slave Revolution in the Carribean* pp. 7-22, 49-54, 57-62, 65-70
We Mar 16  Revolution in the Colonies II
Laurent Dubois & John Garrigus, letters from Biassou & Jean-François; Gros
in the camps of the insurgents; Olympe de Gouges on The Slavery of the
Blacks, Slave Revolution in the Carribean pp. 99-110
Emancipation in Saint Domingue

** Mar 21-25 Spring Break

Mo Mar 28  Popular Revolution
McPhee, Liberty or Death pp. 164-204
Popular Movements Beyond the Convention, French Rev Docs pp. 197-208,
214-218.

We Mar 30  Federalism & counter-revolution
French Rev Docs pp. 214-218
The Vendée War: Counter-Revolutionary Activism
Olwen Hufton, “In Search of Counter-Revolutionary Women,” Gary Kates
(ed) The French Revolution: Recent Debates and New Controversies 1st
** Hand out take-home midterm #2

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

We Apr 6  Improving the Nation
McPhee, Liberty or Death pp. 205-227
Jean-Pierre Gross, Fair Shares for All pp. 64-92
French Rev Docs pp. 238-240

Mo Apr 11  Remaking the People: the Terror
Peter McPhee, Robespierre pp. 182-203
French Rev Docs pp. 236-243, 254-262
Louis-Marie Turreau, For the History of the Vendée War

Ending the Revolution
We Apr 13  Thermidor
McPhee, Liberty or Death pp. 274-296
French Rev Docs pp. 263-275
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

Mo Apr 18  Instituting the Directory
McPhee, Liberty or Death pp. 297-320
Constitution of 1795 & Constitution of 1793
**We Apr 20**  
The Directory Opposition & Control  
*Gracchus Babeuf, The Plebeians’ Manifesto*  
Marc-Antoine Jullien, *Some Advice to the Cisalpine Patriots*  
Orchestrating Politics from Above

**Mo Apr 25**  
Napoleon  
McPhee, *Liberty or Death* pp. 321-341  
Rafe Blaufarb, “Napoleon: The Man and his Times,” *Napoleon: Symbol for an Age* pp. 1-23  
Napoleon Closes the Revolution & An Independent Haiti

**The Meaning of it All**

**We Apr 27**  
McPhee, *Liberty or Death* pp. 342-370  
**Hand out take-home final.**

**Mo May 9**  
Finals due @ 5 pm (Early exams accepted and encouraged)  
Send as Word doc to lmason@jhu.edu