The French Revolution in Global Perspective

Course Overview: This graduate seminar examines both classic and more recent attempts to explain the origins, course, and consequences of the French Revolution, an event seen by many as constituting the watershed between the early modern and late modern eras of European history. Although the French Revolution constitutes the centerpiece of the course, equal space will be devoted to understanding the socio-economic, cultural, and political “Old Regime” overthrown by the event. Unlike more traditional approaches, this course will also devote substantial attention to recent attempts to resituate the French Revolution within a global context, particularly by examining its relationship to the Atlantic revolutions of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. While failing to offer everything to everyone, this course should be useful to students studying early modern Europe, late modern Europe, colonial U.S., or early Latin American history.

As is typical of a graduate course, we will simultaneously be investigating historical events and the manner in which those events are interpreted and discussed. In the process, we will focus on three classic sets of historiographic questions: First, what was the French Revolution? What was its significance to contemporaries, and what has its legacy been for subsequent generations? Second, why did the French Revolution happen? Was it an inevitable result of poverty and class conflict, or was it caused by contingent or more purely political factors? Finally, why did the French Revolution radicalize? Why did a liberal movement for progressive change grounded on liberty and equality eventually degenerate into a factional blood-bath wherein terror was instituted as the order of the day? Beyond these traditional questions, we will be asking how, if at all, recent work on the Haitian Revolution and other Atlantic revolutions has revised our understanding of the French Revolution.

Course Requirements: You are expected to complete all reading assignments before the class wherein they will be discussed; to attend all meetings regularly and to participate actively in all discussions; and to complete all written assignments by their due dates. Because this is a readings course, the written assignments are designed to develop your ability to review monographs on a comparative basis. You will have to write six comparative essays of 4-6 pages, due every two weeks, for a total of 24-36 pages of writing. I strongly encourage you to draft a 1-2 page reaction paper on each of the assigned monographs, particularly as doing so will give you a jump start on the completion of your essays. I will distribute (on D2L) question sets designed to help you focus your essays, but you reserve the option of embracing an alternative approach in your analysis. A mock written comprehensive examination will serve as a final exam in this course. Final grades will be determined based on the following distribution:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative Papers (4-6 pp)</td>
<td>60% (10% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mock Comps Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Required Reading: The following books for History 6012 are available for purchase at the CU Bookstore in the UMC or on the Hill:

- Sylvia Neely, *A Concise History of the French Revolution* (optional)
- Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*
Where possible, I will put copies of these books on reserve in Norlin Library.

**Schedule of Readings, Lectures & Assignments**

**WEEK I (Jan 16): Course Overview**
*Reading*: Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Old Regime & the French Revolution* (entire); Sylvia Neely (optional)

**Part One: The Old Regime**

**WEEK II (Jan 23): The Social Order**

**WEEK III (Jan 30): The Political Order**

**WEEK IV (Feb 6): Cultural Order & Change: The Enlightenment**
*Comparative Essay I is due*

**WEEK V (Feb 13): A Colonial Counter-Point**

**WEEK VI (Feb 20): The Collapse of the Old Regime**
*Comparative Essay II is due*
Part Two: The French Revolution

WEEK VII (Feb 27): The Liberal Revolution

WEEK VIII (Mar 6): The Radical Revolution, Part I
Reading: David Andress, *The Terror* (entire); Doyle, *The Oxford History*, 197-317 (optional); Jones, *Great Nation*, 476-506 (optional).
Comparative Essay III is due

WEEK IX (Mar 13): Radical Revolution, Part II
Reading: Dan Edelstein, *The Terror of Natural Right* (entire)

WEEK X (Mar 20): The Directory & Napoleonic France
Reading: Jones, *Great Nation*, 507-567; Suzanne Desan, “Reconstituting the Social After the Terror” (D2L); Rafe Blaufarb, *Napoleon: Symbol of an Age* (entire).
Comparative Essay IV is due

WEEK XI (Mar 27): SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS

Part Three: Other Revolutions

WEEK XII (Apr 3): The Haitian Revolution, Part I

WEEK XIII (Apr 10): The Haitian Revolution, Part II
Reading: Jeremy Popkin, *You Are All Free* (entire)

WEEK XIV (Apr 17): Other Creole Revolutions, Part I
Reading: Jeremy Adelman, *Sovereignty and Revolution in the Iberian Atlantic* (entire)
Comparative Essay V is due

WEEK XV (Apr 24): Other Creole Revolutions, Part II
Reading: Jane Landers, *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions* (entire)

WEEK XVI (May 1): Contesting the Legacy of the French Revolution
Comparative Essay VI is due

SATURDAY, MAY 4: Comprehensive Examination, 4:30-7:00 P.M.
ACCOMMODATION POLICIES
Some students, by reason of physical handicap or learning disability, are entitled to special accommodation as needed to complete examinations and other course requirements. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter documenting your condition and the accommodation required from Disability Services within the first three weeks of the semester. You can contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices.
It is the campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please notify us within the first three weeks of the semester of any anticipated conflicts so that appropriate accommodations can be made. For a statement of the campus guidelines, see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name; we will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise us of this preference early in the semester. See polices at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the policies of this institution that govern academic integrity. Violations of this policy include cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including, but not limited to, university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

DISCRIMINATION AND HARRASSMENT
The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment, and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh. For the relevant policies, see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html