

HST 29501ST

## The Making of Modern France

Fall Semester 2011

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 152:05 p.m.  
Alumni Recitation Hall 314

### COURSE INFORMATION

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Office Hours MWF 2:15:00 at the Grill, TR 10:00:45 in Mears 305, and by appointment

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Between the eighteenth century and the twentieth, France underwent a breathtaking series of metamorphoses which, in the political realm, encompassed everything from absolute monarchist rule to two Napoleonic empires and five republics. In this course we will trace the political, social, intellectual, and cultural catalysts and consequences of this tumultuous development. We will consider the legacy of Enlightenment and Revolutionary ideologies, shifting notions of citizenship and national identity, social and cultural responses to modernization, and the international crises of the twentieth century. We will pay particular attention to perspectives of class, race, and gender throughout the course. Additionally, we will interrogate some of the historiographical discussions that have contributed to the telling of the story of the making of modern France.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course takes the form of a fluid combination of lecture and discussion. Working complementarily with textbook readings, our lectures provide the historical framework for the material we cover. For the most part, however, our meetings center upon discussion of assigned readings and writings, and it is through the free and open exchange of ideas that we all benefit the most from the class. Your preparation and engagement, then, are crucial to its success. Because discussion figures so heavily in the way we spend class time and wrestle together with the course materials, I sometimes send out discussion questions via email before we meet as a tool to help us focus on common themes and issues.

Please come to class awake and on time with the appropriate reading materials in hand. You are expected to attend class regularly, except in case of dire emergency. By definition, every absence from class has a negative impact upon the overall quality of our conversations, and your grade will be impacted accordingly. After three uncommunicated absences you will receive an F for the participation portion of the course grade. After four uncommunicated absences you will fail the course entirely.

with the professor on the development of your project, and it culminates in a research paper of 8 pages as well as a short presentation on your findings. This assignment will be explained in detail early in the semester, and the relevant deadlines for its successful completion are indicated on the syllabus.

Your overall grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

Participation	30%
Mid-Term Exams (2 @ 15%)	30%
Research Paper	15%
Research Presentation	5%
Final Exam	20%

Students with any form of documented disability are encouraged to contact me early in the semester so that we can arrange for your learning needs to be met and for you to participate fully in

## PART I

M August 29

## OLD REGIME AND REVOLUTION

Lecture: The Old Regime and the Enlightenment

Reading: Popkin, *History of Modern France* (hereafter *HMF*) pp. 735

W August 31

Discussion: Absolutism and its Critics

Readings:

- Bossuet, *Politics Derived from the Words of Holy Scripture* [excerpts] (1709)
- Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* [excerpts] (1748)
- Rousseau, *The Social Contract* [excerpts] (1762)
- Voltaire, *Treatise on Tolerance* [excerpts] (1763)

F September 2

Discussion: Historians Debate the Enlightenment

Readings:

- Robert Darnton, "The High Enlightenment and the ~~Low~~ Life of Literature" from *The Literary Underground of the Old Regime* (1982)
- Dena Goodman, "Enlightenment Salons: The Convergence of Female and Philosophic Ambitions" *Eighteenth Century Studies* 22/3 (1989)  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2738891>

M September 5

Lecture: The Moderate Revolution, 1789

Reading: Popkin, *HMF* pp. 3651

W September 7

Discussion: Revolution For Whom?

Readings:

- Louis XIV, Convocation of the Estates General (1789)
- Sieyès, "What is the Third Estate?" (1789)
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F September 16

Discussion: The Revolutionary Festival

Reading: Mona Ozouf, "The Revolutionary Festival: A Transfer of Sacralty"  
in Schechter, ed.,





F November 18

Lecture and Discussion: International Perspectives in the 1920s and 1930s  
Scapegoats, Threats, and Possibilities  
Readings: Popkin, *MF* 220c 0 Tw 10 Td04

W December 7 "Echoes of the Revolution" Project Presentation+ Final Paper, Group II

F December 9 "Echoes of the Revolution" Project Presentation+ Final Paper, Group III

Thursday  
December 15  
9:00 a.m. FINAL EXAM