

HIST 435/535: REVOLUTIONARY-NAPOLEONIC EUROPE

Prof. Ian F. McNeely – University of Oregon – Fall 2007

CRNs: 15409/15410

Meeting times: TR 10:00-11:20 in 260 CON

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Course description

This course surveys the transition from the Old Regime to the Modern Age in Europe, 1789-1815. While the French Revolution and Napoleon's rise and fall occupy center stage, we also devote considerable attention to Britain, Germany, Spain, and Russia as well as to Europe's relation to the world as a whole.

Our focus throughout is on the culture of politics. Many of the practices of modern democracy, nationalism, imperialism, and authoritarianism took root in this epoch, as did the modes of resistance to these ideologies. Experiments in political culture during this era still provide many of the building blocks of political life today.

Through such experiments, the non-elite masses began, often for the first time, to participate in the electoral process, to learn in schoolrooms, to serve in mass armies, and to travel abroad or overseas. But as this course will argue, it was the restructuring of the European elite that made these changes possible.

Assignments

- Two unannounced quizzes, *one* of which can be made up in case of absence (10% each)
- A final exam on Friday, December 7 from 8:00-10:00am (30%)
- A five-page essay analyzing the scholarly readings listed as “extra” for *one* of the weekly units below, and due on the relevant discussion day (20%)
- An annotated digest of excerpts from a diary, memoir, newspaper, or exchange of letters from the time, due Monday, December 3 at 9:00am in 319 MCK (30%)

Note: Students enrolled in HIST 535 are required to complete all the “extra” readings and turn in a substantially longer paper. Depending on enrollment and student interest, there may be additional readings and/or meetings with the instructor. The specific character of this supplementary work is negotiated at the beginning of the term.

Undergraduates are *only* expected to do the “extra” readings for the week their essays are due. Essays should explain how the extra readings deepen, extend, and complicate the lectures. A signup sheet will be circulated for these papers during the first week of class; choices should be regarded as binding.

Readings

At UO Bookstore

The Portable Edmund Burke, ed. Isaac Kramnick (\$18)

R.R. Palmer, *Twelve Who Ruled* (\$27)

Joseph de Maistre, *Considerations on France* (\$25)

Germaine de Staël, *Ten Years' Exile* (\$13)

E-reserve

J.G. Fichte, *Addresses to the German Nation* (nos. 4, 8, and 9)

On reserve

Michael Walzer, *Regicide and Revolution: Speeches at the Trial of Louis XVI*

All the required readings, plus all the books for extra readings, are on two-hour reserve at Knight library. I've also placed this book there for your reference:

Owen Connelly, *The French Revolution and Napoleonic Era*

SCHEDULE

* = class session dedicated to discussion of readings

(9/25) Two revolutions: 1776 and 1789

(9/27) *Writing constitutions

- [Sample cahiers de doléances](#)
- [“The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen”](#)
- [August 4 decrees](#)
- *Extra*: none this week

(10/2) Britain in 1790

(10/4) *The unwritten constitution

- Burke, 416-474, then 274-282
- *Extra*: Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837*, 147-236, 250-56

(10/9) From monarchy to republic in France, 1791-93

(10/11) *The trial of Louis XVI

- Walzer (research and rehearse one speech)
- Palmer, 3-43 (begin for next week)

- *Extra*: Carol Blum, *Rousseau and the Republic of Virtue*, 133-81

(10/16) *Jacobins, virtue, and the Terror, 1793-94

(10/18) *War for the masses

- Palmer, 44-78 and 225-253 (Tue.), 335-396 (Thu.)
- *Extra*: Simon Schama, *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution*, 746-92, 827-47

(10/23) Ireland and British India, 1795-1805

(10/25) *Conservatism and Empire

- Burke, 330-406
- *Extra*: C.A. Bayly, *Imperial Meridian: The British Empire and the World, 1780-1830*, 100-163

(10/30) *Counter-revolution and violence

(11/1) Napoleon's military career, 1795-1804

- de Maistre, 3-61
- *Extra*: Jesse Goldhammer, *The Headless Republic: Sacrificial Violence in Modern French Thought*, 26-111

(11/6) German defeat and its aftermath, 1803-12

(11/8) *The birth of national education

- Fichte (click here to download)
- *Extra*: Theodore Ziolkowski, *German Romanticism and its Institutions*, 218-308

(11/13) *Bonapartism vs. liberalism

(11/15) Napoleon's political system, 1804-12

- Staël, 17-41, 82-95 (part I, chs. 1-7, 18)
- *Extra*: Martyn Lyons, *Napoleon Bonaparte and the Legacy of the French Revolution*, 60-76, 111-28, 160-77

(11/20) The Continental System and the Peninsular War, 1806-13

(11/22) *THANKSGIVING*

- Readings: TBA
- *Extra*: TBA

(11/27) Guest presentation on Goya by Prof. Andrew Schulz

(11/29) *From Moscow to Waterloo, 1812-15

- Staël, 138-205 (part II, chs. 7-19)
- *Extra*: Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*, book III, part I, chs. 1-7; book III, part III, chs. 2-5; epilogue, part II, chs. 1-2, 5-6 (pp. 729-56, 988-1000, 1412-20, 1428-34 in the Signet Classics edition)

(12/7) *FINAL EXAM (8:00-10:00)*

ASSIGNMENT FOR WINTER VACATION: READ *WAR AND PEACE*