

# FRENCH REVOLUTION & EMPIRE

## HIST4391, Spring 2009

Scott A. Gavorsky  
T-Th, 9:30am-10:45am  
LeConte Hall 341  
Gavorsky@uga.edu

Office: LeConte 239  
Hours: T 11:00am-12:00pm  
Th 2:00pm-3:00pm  
Phone: (706) 542-2539

Crowds surging through the streets of Paris. The guillotine. Soldiers in colorful uniforms marching to the sound of guns to support (or defeat!) Napoleon. These images color our impression of one of the foundational events of the modern world, the French Revolution. In this class we will discuss not only the flow of the Revolution itself, but the ways in which historians have attempted to understand this complicated and often contradictory event.

### COURSE SYLLABUS

*Please Note:* The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Laura Mason and Tracey Rizzo. *The French Revolution: A Document Collection*.

ISBN: 9780669417807. [referred to below as French Docs]

William Doyle. *The Oxford History of the French Revolution*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

ISBN: 9780199252985.

Georges Lefebvre. *The Coming of the French Revolution*. ISBN: 9780691121888

Martyn Lyons. *Napoleon Bonaparte and the Legacy of the French Revolution*.

ISBN: 9780312121235

Recommended—Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN 9780226823379)

**WebCT:** There is a WebCT site for this course. Most of the readings not from the texts above will be available through the WebCT site. Check the WebCT site regularly for course updates.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**1) All academic work must meet the standards contained in UGA's "A Culture of Honesty."** Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

**2) Class Participation and Attendance:** The class is designed around the open discussion of assigned readings; students are expected to come to class having completed all readings and prepared to discuss the issues they raise. Students can expect 100 pages of reading per week. **Any student with more than two (2) unexcused absences will be penalized one letter grade on attendance per additional absence.** It is the student's responsibility to explain any absence to the instructor at the earliest opportunity.

**3) Written Assignments:** Written assignments for this course should be prepared using a proper academic format; I strongly recommend the Turabian *Manual for Writers of Research Papers*. Assignments will be graded on both content (accuracy, argument and evidence) and writing (grammar, syntax, clarity, structure and style). ***All overdue written assignments will be penalized 1 grade (B+ to B, etc. ) per day (including weekends and holidays).***

**4) French Map Quiz:** All students are expected to demonstrate a working knowledge of French natural and human geography. A map detailing the major natural features, regions, cities, and neighboring countries will be distributed the second week of class. An in-class quiz will be held on *Tuesday, 20 January 2009*.

**5) Revolution Scavenger Hunt:** Students will prepare a short (2 page) encyclopedia-style entry and a reference bibliography (10 primary sources and 10 secondary sources) on a topic from the French Revolution selected from a list. The assignment is designed to introduce students to the source material for the French Revolution and to prepare students for the research that will be needed for the final paper.

**6) Short Paper:** Students will prepare a short (5-6 page) argumentative paper based on primary documents I will provide. The assignment will give you experience working with primary sources to develop an analytical, causal essay—which will be good practice for your final paper.

**7) Research Paper:** All students will write one (1) research paper of 13-15 pages examining a topic of the student's choosing after consultation with me. A short prospectus (4 pages) outlining a preliminary argument and analysis of sources and preliminary bibliography with a minimum of four primary sources and three secondary sources will be due at the start of class on *Tuesday, 3 March 2009*. The final paper will be due at the end of the exam period for this course.

### **GRADING**

|                           |     |  |
|---------------------------|-----|--|
| Class Participation       | 20% |  |
| French Map Quiz           | 10% | In Class, 20 January 2009              |
| Revolution Scavenger Hunt | 15% | Due Thursday, 5 February 2009          |
| Final Paper Prospectus    | 10% | Due Tuesday, 3 March 2009              |
| Short Paper               | 20% | Due Tuesday, 31 March 2009             |
| Final Research Paper      | 25% | Due during Final Exam Period for Class |

### **CLASS READINGS**

#### **Week One: Class Introduction**

T, 8 Jan: Class Introduction

**Week Two: Life in the Old Regime**

- T, 13 Jan: Doyle, chap. 1  
Lefebvre, chap. 1  
Bossuet, "Politics Drawn from the Very Words of Holy Scripture" [WebCT]
- Th, 15 Jan: French Docs, pgs. 16-38  
Lefebvre, chaps. 3 and 9

**Week Three: The Enlightenment**

T, 20 Jan: **FRENCH MAP QUIZ AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**

- Doyle, chap. 2  
Voltaire, "Reflections on Religion" [WebCT]  
French Docs, pgs. 38-42 (Rousseau)
- Th, 22 Jan: Robert Darnton, "An Early Information Society: News and the Media in Eighteenth-Century Paris," *American Historical Review* 105 (2000): 1-35. [WebCT]  
French Docs, pgs. 24-29

**Week Four: The Final Crises**

- T, 27 Jan: Doyle, chap. 3  
Lefebvre, chap. 4
- Th, 29 Jan: Doyle, chap. 4  
French Docs, pgs. 42-46

**Week Five: The Estates General**

- T, 3 Feb: Lefebvre, chap. 5  
French Docs, pgs. 49-53
- Th, 5 Feb: **SCAVENGER HUNT PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**  
*Cahiers de doléances*, in-class project

**Week Six: The Popular Revolution**

- T, 10 Feb: Lefebvre, chaps. 6-8 and 10  
French Docs, pgs. 58-72
- Th, 12 Feb: Lefebvre, chaps. 11-15  
Doyle, chap. 5

**Week Seven: Reform and Radicalization**

T, 17 Feb: Doyle, chap. 6  
French Docs, pgs. 89-124

Th, 19 Feb: Doyle, chap. 8

**Week Eight: Reaction and Counter-Revolution: Royalism and Federalism**

T, 24 Feb: Doyle, chaps. 10 & 13  
*Memoirs of the Marquise de la Rochejaquelein*, selections [WebCT]

Th, 26 Feb: Lyons, chaps. 1-3  
Napoleon Bonaparte, “The Supper at Beaucaire” [WebCT]

**Week Nine: The Reign of Terror**

T, 3 Mar: ***FINAL PAPER PROSPECTUS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS***  
Doyle, chap. 11  
French Docs, pgs. 189-205

Th, 5 Mar: Robespierre, “Report on the Principles of Political Morality” [WebCT]  
French Docs, pgs. 221-243

**SPRING BREAK: March 9 – March 13. Have fun and be careful!**

**Week Ten: The Directory and Stabilization**

T, 17 Mar: Doyle, chaps. 12 and 14

Th, 19 Mar: French Docs, pp. 281-333

**Week Eleven: Revolution and War**

T, 24 Mar: Doyle, chaps. 7 and 9

Th, 26 Mar: French Docs, pp. 157-188

**Week Twelve: Exportation of Revolution**

T, 31 Mar: ***SHORT PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS***  
C.L.R. James, selections from *The Black Jacobins* [WebCT]  
Carolyn Fick, “The French Revolution in Saint Domingue: A Triumph or a Failure?” [WebCT]

Th, 2 Apr: Doyle, chap. 15  
Al-Jabarti, selections from *Napoleon in Egypt* [WebCT]

**Week Thirteen: The Providential Man**

T, 7 Apr: Doyle, chap 16  
Lyons, chaps. 4 & 6

Th, 9 Apr: Lyons, chap. 5  
French Docs, pp. 353-384

**Week Fourteen: Securing the Revolution**

T, 14 Apr: Lyons, chaps. 7-10  
Napoleon, selections from the Civil Code [WebCT]

Th, 16 Apr: Lyons, chaps. 11-13

**Week Fifteen: Empire and War**

T, 21 Apr: Lyons, chaps. 14-17  
***DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING FINAL PAPER DRAFTS FOR COMMENT***

Th, 23 Apr: Lyons, chaps. 18-20

**Week Sixteen: The Revolution in History**

T, 28 Apr: Doyle, chap. 17  
Robert Darnton, "What Was Revolutionary about the French Revolution?" *New York Review of Books* 35, no. 21 and 22 (19 January 1989) [WebCT]

**FINAL PAPER DUE BY END OF EXAM PERIOD**