

History 4213 **Era of the French Revolution**

Old Main 417, T, Th 9:30-10:50 AM

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Office hours: T, 11-12 AM, Th, 3:30-4:20 PM, and by appointment
Fall, 2009

Required readings:

Robert Darnton,	The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History
Carnes and Kates,	Rousseau, Burke, and Revolution in France, 1791
David Andress,	The Terror: The Merciless War for Freedom in Revolutionary France
Joan Landes,	Visualizing the Nation: Gender, Representation, and Revolution in Eighteenth-Century France
David Bell	The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know it

Week	Date	Assignment
I	Aug. 25 Aug. 27	Introduction Darnton, introduction, ch. 1
II	Sept. 1 Sept. 3	Darnton, chs. 2, 3 Darnton, chs. 4, 5
III	Sept. 8 Sept. 10	Darnton, ch. 6, conclusion; Rousseau, in Carnes, 49-51, 68-80 Film: <i>Ridicule</i>
IV	Sept. 15 Sept. 17	Andress, intro., ch. 1 Carnes, 1-16; read Voltaire, Diderot selections (on-line)
V	Sept. 22 Sept. 24	Carnes, 17-26; Andress, ch. 2 Rousseau, Social Contract selections
VI	Sept. 29 Oct. 1	Burke, Reflections selections in Carnes, App. C Midterm Exam
VII	Oct. 6 Oct. 8	Carnes, 1-46; roles distributed; clubs assigned Faction meetings/First National Assembly
VIII	Oct. 13 Oct. 15	Second National Assembly First newspaper assignment due Third National Assembly

IX	Oct. 20	Fourth National Assembly Second newspaper assignment due
	Oct. 22	Final National Assembly; Constitution approved
X	Oct. 27	Address, chs. 3-5
	Oct. 29	Address, chs. 6, 7
XI	Nov. 3	Address, chs. 8-10
	Nov. 5	Address, chs. 11, 12, conclusion
XII	Nov. 10	Film: <i>Danton</i>
	Nov. 12	Film: <i>Danton</i>
XIII	Nov. 17	Landes, chs. 1, 2
	Nov. 18	Landes, chs. 3, 4, epilogue
XIV	Nov. 24	Bell, intro., chs. 1, 2
	Nov. 26	Thanksgiving holiday
XV	Dec. 1	Bell, chs. 3, 4
	Dec. 3	Bell, chs. 5, 6
XVI	Dec. 8	Bell, chs. 7, 8, epilogue Final papers due

Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 14, 10-12 AM

Welcome to the exciting and sometimes violent world of the French Revolution! This course will be conducted as much as possible as a discussion seminar, making it imperative that you come to class having done the reading assignment for that day, so that you are prepared to discuss it. Always feel free to ask questions, and to contact me outside of class in person or via email for any questions or problems not resolved in class.

The seventh, eighth and ninth weeks of the class will demand even more participation on your part, as we will be involved in an historical re-enactment of the events leading up to the promulgation of the first constitution in French history. Each student will belong to a political club and also participate in the French National Assembly, charged with writing the constitution. As club members, you will write articles establishing your club's position on particular issues; these articles will take the form of 3-4 page papers due in the eighth and ninth weeks. You will also be graded for your participation in the exercise. Since 1791 was a period of relative peace and goodwill, there is no need for violence and vituperation here. You are all working in the best interests of your country: "Vive la France! Vive la Nation!"

An additional final paper of 6 to 8 pages will be due at the end of the course. The final paper should be a well-focused essay, in which you raise a question in the opening paragraph and then provide evidence to answer that question. You may rely on course readings, or you may want to consult additional sources. All sources should be listed in a bibliography, alphabetized by author's last name. References to those sources can be cited in notes or simply by using the author's last name and page number in the text, e.g. (Darnton, 135). Please do not plagiarize, which means using some else's words as your own. If you do and are caught, you will fail the course. If you do include quotations, they should only come from primary sources (e.g. Napoleon or Robespierre). Secondary sources should be rephrased in your own words. Internet-based sources are acceptable, but in my experience papers based entirely on such sources are less successful than those that cite books and articles from reputable journals, the difference being that books and articles have been refereed and can be assumed to be authoritative. In other words, Wikipedia can be the starting point for an essay but not the final authority.

There will also be an essay-format mid-term and final exam. The newspaper articles you write will each count for 10% of your grade; the mid-term, final paper and final exam will each count for 20%, and the remaining 20% will be based on class participation, especially during the re-enactment. Those students who volunteer to play key roles in the reenactment (King Louis XVI, Danton, Robespierre, Lafayette, president of the National Assembly) and do a good job may have some advantage in terms of the participation grade. Males and females are equally welcome to apply for these parts. Sorry, there's no role for Marie Antoinette in the game. All assignments are due on the dates stipulated in the syllabus; late assignments will be marked down.