HIS 426 – 001: French Revolution and Napoleon  
Spring 2019  
W 4:00 – 6:30 pm  
472 Ferguson  

Mr. Robert Allen, History Department  
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Office hours: Tues 2 – 3 pm, Wed 9 am – noon, Thurs 2 – 3 pm, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Analysis of revolutionary change in France, from the collapse of the Old Regime through the birth of the republic and the rise and fall of Napoleon. The course will give special attention to the Enlightenment and to the nature of the Old Regime, then to the momentous events of 1789 and the achievements of the Constituent Assembly. After tracing the decline of liberal ideals and the rise of the Terror, we will analyze Napoleon’s complex role in ending the Revolution and reshaping its institutions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The assignments will consist of a midterm exam, a final exam, three reading tests, and one paper. The midterm exam and the final exam will include mainly short answer and essay questions, while the reading tests will comprise exclusively short answer questions. The paper assignment will be posted in February: the paper, 8 – 10 pages in length, will be due on Monday, May 6.

GRADING POLICY

The semester grade will be broken into “fourths”: 25% of your semester grade will come from each of the two exams (the midterm exam and the final exam), 25% from the average of your three reading tests, and 25% from your paper.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance does not form in itself a percentage of the semester grade, but students who miss class on the day of an exam or reading test will receive the grade of zero on that assignment.

NOTE ABOUT BRIGHTSPACE

This semester we will make use of Brightspace (D2L) for grades and some course content. You can reach the website by going to d2l.sfasu.edu. Click on “log in,” then use the same user ID and password that you would use with MySFA.
BOOKS TO PURCHASE

Sylvia Neely, *A Concise History of the French Revolution*

Georges Lefebvre, *The Coming of the French Revolution*

Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight*

Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*

Keith Michael Baker, ed., *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*

Selected articles will be posted on Brightspace and will also be required reading for the course.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a B.A. degree in History:

1. The student will interpret the past in context.
2. The student will understand the complex nature of the historical record.
3. The student will engage in historical inquiry, research, and analysis.
4. The student will craft historical narrative and argument.
5. The student will practice historical thinking as central to engaged citizenship.

This course will focus on PLOs 1, 2, and 4.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows:

1. The student will explain the main characteristics and consequences of the Enlightenment.
2. The student will explain the collapse of the Old Regime.
3. The student will evaluate the liberal ideals of 1789.
4. The student will explain why the liberal ideals of 1789 were so difficult to preserve.
5. The student will evaluate the historical importance of Napoleon Bonaparte.
Course Calendar

I The Old Regime

Jan 23 Rural society
Jan 30 Urban society and the political system of the Old Regime
Feb 6 The Enlightenment

II 1789

Feb 13 The coming of the French Revolution

**1st reading test:

1. Loyseau, “A Treatise on Orders”
4. Remonstrance of the Cour des Aides (1775)
5. Diderot, “The Definition of an Encyclopedia”

Feb 20 The Estates-General and the National Assembly

III Failure of the Constitutional Monarchy

Feb 27 Creating a new order

**2nd reading test:

Tackett, When the King Took Flight, entire

March 6 Fall of the monarchy
March 13 Midterm exam

**Reading:

Lefebvre, The Coming of the French Revolution, entire

IV The Republic & the Terror

March 27 The National Convention: Jacobins and Girondins

April 3 Crisis in the Spring of 1793 and the Convention’s response
April 10       The apex and collapse of the Terror

** 3rd reading test:  
  • Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*, entire

V THE RISE AND FALL OF NAPOLEON

April 17      The Directory and Brumaire
April 24      The Consulate and domestic policies
May 1        Military conquest

** Paper due, May 6

May 8        Collapse of the Empire
May 15       Final exam, 4 – 6 pm

** Reading:

  • 36. “Documents of the Sans-Culottes”
  • 40. Saint-Just, “Report to the Convention on Behalf of the Committee of Public Safety”
  • 42. Robespierre, “Report on the Principles of Political Morality”
  • 47. “The Coup d’Etat of 18 Brumaire 1799”
  • 49. Burke, “Reflections on the Revolution in France”
  • 50. Maistre, “Considerations on France”
  • 51. Constant, “Ancient and Modern Liberty Compared”