SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

HI 4015: The French Revolution

30 credits 11 weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure. You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM
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TIMETABLE
For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen

Students can also view their university timetable at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php
COURSE DESCRIPTION
The French Revolution is among the most widely written about events in history. It has long provoked passionate responses, not only in France but also in many other parts of the world where people have lived through massive political and social upheaval. For anyone who has ever thought about what it means to transform society, the French Revolution stands out as a compelling example of how such a transformation may unfold in all its breathtaking complexity. This course follows a chronological route through the various stages of the French Revolution. In doing so, it explores central issues of contention in the France of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It introduces students to key lines of debate and to the historical origins of particular ideologies.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The course aims to provide a thorough grounding in the study of the French Revolution and to promote independent research on this subject as well as collaborative academic work with peers.

By the end of this course you will be able to:
• show familiarity with political, social, and cultural developments in the history of revolutionary France;
• appreciate different historiographical approaches;
• evaluate the strength of an argument;
• identify and analyse a range of primary and secondary sources;
• articulate a convincing argument based on use of evidence.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
Week 1
S1: Eighteenth-century France: at court and in the countryside
S2: Challenges to the ancien régime

Week 2
S3: From Estates General to National Assembly
S4: Religion and reform

Week 3
S5: An end to monarchy
S6: War and emigration

Week 4
S7 Counter-revolution: the Vendée uprising
S8 Producing Terror
Week 5
S9: Maximilien Robespierre
S10: Thermidorian Reaction

Week 6: No classes

Week 7
S11: Practice exam
S12: France’s archives

Week 8
S13: Civic culture
S14: Rural life: change and continuities

Week 9
S15: The Directory and the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte
S16: Fighting for freedom in the colonies

Week 10
S17: Family strategies and the law
S18: Memories and commemoration

Week 11
S19: Historical debates – focus on class
S20: Historical debates – focus on gender

SEMINAR READINGS

Selected readings are available for download on MyAberdeen

For each seminar you will be expected to read the primary and core secondary sources. The readings will be divided up prior to the seminar, and you will have responsibility for particular texts, but you certainly should not limit yourself to those. An extensive knowledge of primary and secondary sources is indispensable. Members of the class will introduce each topic by making a presentation. The remainder of the session will comprise discussions arising from the presentation.

Week 1 S1: Eighteenth-century France: at court and in the countryside

No set readings

Week 1 S2: Challenges to the ancien régime
Primary
Extract from A Treatise on Orders
The Parlement of Paris
Preface to the King’s Accounts
Extract from The Spirit of Laws
Extract from The Nobleman
Extract from The Social Contract
The Noailles Affair
Extract from Paris Scenes

Secondary
Baker, Keith M. Inventing the French Revolution (Cambridge, 1990)
Bossenga, Gail. The Politics of Privilege: Old Regime and Revolution in Lille (Cambridge, 1991)

Week 2 S3: From Estates General to National Assembly

Primary
Letter from the King for the Convocation of the Estates General at Versailles
Extract from What is the Third Estate?
Cahiers de Doléances
The Declaration of the National Assembly
The Tennis Court Oath
Louis XVI at the Royal Session
Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
The National Assembly Decrees the Enfranchisement of Free Men of Colour
Olympe de Gouges’ Declaration of the Rights of Woman

Secondary
Hampson, Norman. Danton (New York, 1978)

Tackett, Timothy. *Becoming a Revolutionary: The Deputies of the French National Assembly and the Emergence of a Revolutionary Culture* (Princeton, 1996)

**Week 2 S4: Religion and reform**

**Primary**

Debate on Religious Freedom
Petition by the Jews
The Debate over the Civil Constitution of the Clergy

AND

The debate on Church reform, May 1790
Decree on the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, 12 July 1790
The clerical oath
Papal bull *Charitas*, 13 April 1791

**Secondary**


McManners, John. *French Ecclesiastical Society under the Ancien Régime* (Manchester, 1960)


**Week 3 S5: An end to monarchy**

**Primary**

Declaration of the King Addressed to All the French About His Flight from Paris
The Queen’s Farewells to Her Darlings of Both Sexes
The Brunswick Manifesto, 25 July 1792
Petition from the Paris Sections
Decree of the National Assembly for Suspending the King, 10 August 1792
Morrison’s Speech on the Trial of the King, 13 November 1792
Condorcet’s Speech on the Trial of the King, 3 December 1792

AND
Indictment of Louis XVI, 11 December 1792
Louis XVI’s execution, 21 January 1793
A provincial response

Secondary
Hunt, Lynn. The Family Romance of the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1992)
Hunt, Lynn, ed. Eroticism and the Body Politic (Baltimore, 1991)
Jordan, David P. The King’s Trial: The French Revolution vs. Louis XVI (Berkeley, 1979)
Patrick, Alison. The Men of the First French Republic: Political Alignments in the National Convention of 1792 (Baltimore, 1972)
Ragan, Bryant T., Jr., and Elizabeth A. Williams, eds. Recreating Authority in Revolutionary France (New Brunswick, 1992)
Vovelle, Michel. The Fall of the French Monarchy, 1789–1792 (Cambridge, 1984)
Walzer, Michael, ed. Regicide and Revolution: Speeches at the Trial of Louis XVI (Cambridge, 1974)

Week 3 S6 War and emigration

Primary
Robespierre’s Discourse on War delivered to the Jacobin Club
Brissot’s Third Discourse on the Necessity of War delivered to the Jacobin Club
The Marseillaise
The September Massacres

AND
The renunciation of foreign conquests, 22 May 1790
The decree against émigrés, 9 November 1791
The declaration of war, 20 April 1792
Decree of La Patrie en danger, 11 July 1792
Decree conscripting 300,000 men

Secondary
Blaufarb, Rafe. The French Army, 1750–1820: Careers, Talent, Merit (Manchester, 2002)
Forrest, Alan. The Soldiers of the French Revolution (Durham, 1990)
Greer, Donald, M. The Incidence of Emigration during the French Revolution (Cambridge, 1951)

Week 4 S7 Counter-revolution

Primary
Petition from the Residents of Roscoff (Finistère)
Memoir of Madame de Sapinaud
Memoir of General Turreau
AND
The revolt breaks out, 5 March 1793
Guerilla tactics
The Massacre of prisoners
Turreau to the Minister of War, 19 January 1794

Secondary
Sutherland, Donald. *France 1789–1815: Revolution and Counter-Revolution* (London, 1985)
Tilly, Charles. *The Vendée* (Cambridge, 1964)

**Week 4 S8: Producing Terror**

**Primary**
Definitions of the Sans-Culotte, the Moderate, and the Aristocrat
Petition from the Revolutionary Republican Women to the National Convention
Constitution of Year I
Instituting the Terror
The Law on Suspects
Concerning Arbitrary Measures and Arrests
Barère’s Report on the Maximum
Law of 22 Prairial Year II

**Secondary**

**Week 5 S9: Maximilien Robespierre**

**Primary**
On the Right to Vote
On Capital Punishment
On War and Peace
On the Control of Food Supplies
On Property
On Revolutionary Government
On the Cult of the Supreme Being
Last Speech to the Convention

**Secondary**

Hampson, Norman. *The Life and Opinions of Maximilien Robespierre* (London, 1944)
Jordan, David P. *The Revolutionary Career of Maximilien Robespierre* (Chicago, 1989)
Thompson, J.M. *Robespierre* (Oxford, 1935)

**Week 5 S10: Thermidorian Reaction**

**Primary**

Tallien on the Terror, 28 August 1794
The Alarm of the People
The Prairial Uprising, May 1795

AND

The Gilded Youth Attack the Jacobin Club, November 1794
The de-martyrisation of Marat, February 1795
The White Terror in the Provinces, 1795

**Secondary**

Lucas, Colin and Gwynne Lewis, eds. *Beyond the Terror: Essays in French Regional and Social History, 1794–1815* (Cambridge, 1983)

**Week 6 No classes**

**Week 7 S11: Practice exam**
No set readings

**Week 7 S12: France’s archives**

No set readings

**Week 8 S13: Civic culture**

**Primary**
Discussion of the Le Chapelier Law

AND

Le Chapelier Law, 14 June 1791
The celebration of revolutionary heroes
Uniform weights and measures
Dechristianisation in the provinces
Bouquier law on education, 19 December 1793

**Secondary**

**Week 8 S14: Rural life: change and continuities**

**Primary**
Petition from the Inhabitants of the Somme to the National Assembly
Letter from the Community of Marnay to the National Assembly
Remarks on the Dialect and Mores of the People of the Countryside in the department of Lot-et-Garonne

AND
The August 1789 Decrees on Feudalism
The Rural Code, September 1791
The abolition of feudalism, 25 August 1792
Land clearances in southern France, 1793

**Secondary**

**Week 9 S15: The Directory and the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte**

**Primary**
Napoleon Bonaparte, ‘The Italian letters’ addressed to Josephine, Citizeness Beauharnais (1796)

AND
Bonaparte’s Proclamation to the French Nation, 10 November 1799

AND
The Concordat, 10 September 1801
The Consulate for Life, 1802
Founding the Empire, 1804
Imposing the Code Napoléon on the Empire
Week 9 S16: Fighting for freedom in the colonies

Primary
Proclamation to the Slaves of Saint Domingue
Proclamation of 29 August 1793
Letter to General Laveaux
Freedom of the Negroes
Creole of Saint Domingue, My Odyssey
Proclamation to the Citizens of Saint Domingue
To Citizen Talleyrand, Minister of Foreign Affairs
To Consul Cambacérès

AND
Civil rights for free Blacks
An attack on the slave trade

Secondary
Gaspar, David, and David P. Geggus, eds. A Turbulent Time: The French Revolution and the Greater Caribbean (Bloomington, 1997)
James, C.L.R. The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L’Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution (London, 1980)

Week 10 S17: Family strategies and the law

Primary
Reflections of a Good Citizen in Favour of Divorce
Decree Regulating Divorce
The French Civil Code

AND
Law on Inheritance, March 1790

Secondary
Desan, Suzanne. The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France (Los Angeles, 2004)
Heuer, Jennifer. The Family and the Nation: Gender and Citizenship in Revolutionary France 1789–1830 (Ithaca, 2005)

Week 10 S18: Memories and commemoration

Primary
A Chouan in Caen, 4 September 1797
A Jacobin in Lyon
On the True Cause of the Revolution, 1797

AND
Baron Trouvé on southern peasants
The Marquise de La Tour du Pin on her family
Marie-Victoire Monnard on making ends meet

Secondary
**Week 11 S19: Historical debates – class**


**Week 11 S20: Historical debates – gender**

Desan, Suzanne. *The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France* (Los Angeles, 2004)


**GUIDE TO FURTHER READING**

The selected works listed in this course guide provide a foundation from which to explore the vast historical literature on the French Revolution. In compiling this guide, the aim has been to provide some direction and stimulus; however, the greatest rewards in study often come from discoveries that you make.
There are no shortcuts to rigorous research: motivation, discipline, and a regular investment of your time are essential. Primary and secondary sources (in French and in English) may be accessed in MyAberdeen, the University Library, the National Library of Scotland, and via online databases. There are classic interpretations of the French Revolution that you will need to read carefully and reflect upon at length. You should take every opportunity to browse in leading international journals where cutting-edge research is published.

**Recommended for purchase**

The following two books contain primary sources in English translation and we will be using them regularly in seminars:


**Some general works and compilations not listed below in the seminar readings**

Daileader, Philip and Philip Whalen. *French Historians 1900–2000: New Historical Writing in Twentieth-Century France* (Chichester, 2010) [Biographical essays, some of which are about specialists of the French Revolution]


**Some key journals**

*American Historical Review*
*Economic History Review*
*Eighteenth-century Studies*
*English Historical Review*
*French History*
*French Historical Studies*
*French Politics, Culture and Society*
*Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques*
*The Historical Journal*
*Journal of Social History*
*Past & Present*
On-line databases
- Modern History Sourcebook
- QML History E-Journals
- Meta-Lib E-Resources
- J-Stor

Some useful websites:
- H-France contains links to book reviews and forum discussions
- Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection
- Test your geographical knowledge of France!
- Liberty, Equality Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution
- Electronic Enlightenment
- The Marandet Plays
- The Encyclopedia of Diderot and d’Alembert Collaborative Translation Project
- Révolution Française

ASSESSMENT
Assessment is based on:
- one written examination at 100% of the final assessment.

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

ESSAY
Your 3,000-word essay is due Thursday Week 8 not later than 12p.m. You must write on a topic agreed in advance with the course co-ordinator. It is expected that the essay will be submitted in word-processed format and must be accompanied by a bibliography and foot- or endnotes conforming to established academic conventions.

Essays will be returned with a mark taken from the Common Assessment Scale with written comments. All essays will be returned individually, providing you with the opportunity to discuss your essay, techniques of essay writing, and other aspects of the course with your tutor. It is assumed that you will use the select bibliography in this guide to assist in constructing your own reading list.

CLASS PRESENTATION
In most seminars students will introduce the topic through a brief presentation. You are encouraged to discuss the presentation, in advance,
with the course co-ordinator. Everyone will read the assigned material for the presentation. Students may make use of PowerPoint in their presentations, which should provide the following:

- An overview of the topic under discussion
- Discussion of the main historiographical arguments concerning that topic
- Consideration of the topic in the context of the course as a whole

You ought not only to summarize but also to present an argument within your presentation. Presentations should last no more than 20 minutes (which approximately equates to 2,000 words typed). Presentations, along with essays, are essential preparation for the exam.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

Your 3,000-word essay is due Thursday Week 8 not later than 12p.m.

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

The Department requires ONE official electronic copy submitted by the deadline plus ONE paper copy of all assignments with the TurnitinUK receipt, attached as follows:

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen.

**Hard Copy:** One hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached together with an Assessment cover sheet, typed and double spaced – this copy should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the History Department [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

**EXAMINATION**

The duration of the exam is three hours.

Past exam papers can be viewed at [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/].