

HISTORY 3356

Professor Stone

THE FIRST AGE OF REVOLUTION, 1750-1815

This is a course in French, European, and world history. In the narrowest sense, History 3356 seeks to explain how reform and then revolution convulsed France and, to some extent, much of Europe after 1750---and how the processes of change fared under Napoleon. In a broader sense, History 3356 comes to grips with what was actually the first international revolutionary upheaval of the modern world.

The course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesdays will be devoted to lectures, while most Thursdays will be devoted to seminars in which the students will initiate discussions of assigned readings. While the lectures will of course be important, the seminars will be equally so. It is to be emphasized that THIS IS A PARTICIPATION COURSE.

Each student will write a mid-term paper of about 10 to 12 pages. The paper, due on Thursday, October 11, will compare some aspect of Georges Lefebvre's THE COMING OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION and Bailey Stone's THE GENESIS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. Then, students will take a 3-hour in-class final exam in December. Evaluations of student performance will reflect both written work AND participation in seminar discussions.

The following books, all reasonably priced and in paperback, will be required and may be purchased at the Bookstore:

Charles Breunig, THE AGE OF REVOLUTION AND REACTION, 1789-1850
Bailey Stone, THE GENESIS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
Voltaire, THE PORTABLE VOLTAIRE
Rousseau, THE SOCIAL CONTRACT
Georges Lefebvre, THE COMING OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
Kafker and Laux, THE FRENCH REVOLUTION: CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS
Bailey Stone, REINTERPRETING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
Felix Markham, NAPOLEON

Week I (August 21-23)

- A. Introduction to the Course
- B. The ANCIEN REGIME: Europe

Week II (August 28-30)

- A. The ANCIEN REGIME: France
- B. Discussion: Stone, GENESIS, chs. 1, 2

Week III (September 4-6)

- A. Was There An "Established" Enlightenment?
- B. Discussion: Stone, GENESIS (as needed)
Voltaire, pp. 53-218

- Week IV (September 11-13)
A. Was There A "Counter-Enlightenment"?
B. Discussion: Rousseau, SOCIAL CONTRACT
- Week V (September 18-20)
A. The Causes of the Revolution: The Great Debate (I)
B. Discussion: Lefebvre, complete
Kafker and Laux, pp. 34-55
- Week VI (September 25-27)
A. The Causes of the Revolution: The Great Debate (II)
B. Discussion: Stone, GENESIS, chs. 3, 4
- Week VII (October 2-4)
A. The "Bourgeoisie" of 1789-1791: How Revolutionary?
B. Discussion: Stone, REINTERPRETING, ch. 3
Kafker and Laux, pp. 81-112
- Week VIII (October 9-11)
A. The "Revolutionizing" of the Revolution
B. Discussion: Stone, REINTERPRETING, ch. 4
Kafker and Laux, pp. 113-154
- Week IX (October 16-18)
A. Popular Revolution, Popular Terror
B. Discussion: Kafker and Laux, pp. 185-267
- Week X (October 23-25)
A. Thermidor and the Directory
B. Discussion: Stone, REINTERPRETING, ch. 5
Kafker and Laux, pp. 353-388
- Week XI (October 30-November 1)
A. International Developments during the 1790s
B. Slide show: Paris and Versailles
- Week XII (November 6-8)
A. How Many Napoleons Were There?
B. Discussion: Markham, pp. 1-154
- Week XIII (November 13-15)
A. Napoleon and the European Reaction
B. Discussion: Markham, from p. 155 on
- Week XIV (November 20-22)
A. Finale: Had France (and Europe) really changed?
B. Thanksgiving
- Week XV (November 27-29)
A. Discussion: Kafker and Laux, pp. 315-352, 389-440
B. Review Session