

Spring 2007

HISTORY 4395

Professor Stone

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION: HISTORIANS AND ACTORS

This is a course which, focusing narrowly upon the causation and "process" of the great sociopolitical upheaval of 1789-99 in France, will attempt to train students to understand professional historians and original period documents in the contexts of their times as well as to utilize relevant historical documents in an "interactive" research environment. The first six weeks of the course will be given over to lectures on and seminar discussions of the classic historiography on the causes of the Revolution, and will be capped by an in-class mid-term examination on that historiography. The next six weeks will concentrate upon interpreting in class sessions original documents, i.e. writings produced by revolutionaries and counterrevolutionaries, against the backdrop of unfolding revolutionary events in France.

One special feature of the course will be an instructional session dealing with the ways historians can use the new, "interactive" technologies in a library setting to conduct significant historical research. This session, scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, will be supervised over at the UH Library by History Special Projects Librarian Amelia Abreu. Although a final paper utilizing these new technologies is not mandatory, some students may indeed wish, and all will surely be encouraged, to consult Ms. Abreu as they consult original documents in researching their final papers.

After the final class on April 18, students will devote their time to preparing 15 to 20-page papers analyzing and interpreting a primary source (or sources) from the revolutionary era. All papers will be due on Monday, April 30, and must be submitted to me in both "hard" and digitized formats.

It is important to emphasize that History 4395 is a participation course, and that consequently evaluations of student performance will reflect attendance at and contribution to seminars as well as written work.

The following books, all reasonably priced in paperback, are required and may be purchased at the University Bookstore, i.e. at the Bookstore right here on campus:

Georges Lefebvre, The Coming of the French Revolution
Alfred Cobban, The Social Interpretation of the French Revolution
Roger Chartier, The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution
Bailey Stone, The Genesis of the French Revolution
Bailey Stone, Reinterpreting the French Revolution

Marc Goldstein, ed., Social and Political Thought of the French Revolution

- Week I (January 17)
Introduction to the Course
- Week II (January 24)
Pre-Marxist French Revolutionary Historiography
- Week III (January 31)
Marxist Perspectives on the French Revolution
Discussion: Georges Lefebvre
- Week IV (February 7)
Social Revisionism and the French Revolution
Discussion: Alfred Cobban
- Week V (February 14)
The Enlightenment and the French Revolution
Discussion: Roger Chartier
- Week VI (February 21)
Geopolitics and the French Revolution
Discussion: Bailey Stone, The Genesis
- Week VII (February 28)
Mid-Term Examination
- Week VIII (March 7)
Instructional Session at UH Library Conducted by
History Librarian Amelia Abreu
- Week IX (March 21)
The Onset of Revolution, 1787-89
Discussion: Stone, Reinterpreting, ch. 2
Goldstein, pp. 68-129
- Week X (March 28)
First Attempts to Stabilize the Revolution, 1789-91
Discussion: Stone, Reinterpreting, ch. 3
Goldstein, pp. 247-303
- Week XI (April 4)
The Revolutionizing of the Revolution, 1791-93
Discussion: Stone, Reinterpreting, ch. 4
Goldstein, pp. 355-411
- Week XII (April 11)
The Period of the Terror, 1793-94
Discussion: Stone, Reinterpreting, ch. 4
Goldstein, pp. 456-97