

French Revolution and Napoleonic Era

History 3367, Fall 2024

MW 12:00-1:20, Psychology Bldg. 307

University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. Paul Edison

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Office Hours: Mon. 10:30 am-11:45 am, and

Wed. 1:45 pm-2:45 pm, and by appointment

Course Description

The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era (1789-1815) changed the face of Europe and ushered in the modern world. Many celebrated the Revolution for showing that humans can actively transform their world and establish a democratic and secular society based on inalienable rights and equality. Others condemned it for rejecting the past and unleashing popular political violence, state sponsored political terror, and wars of conquest. This course will show why the Revolution provoked such different reactions and why its legacy is still important today. Topics include the origins of the Revolution, debates over rights, counter-revolution and the Terror, the Haitian Revolution, Napoleon Bonaparte, warfare and nationalism, and the Revolution's impact on Europe and beyond. Course meetings will include lecture and discussion, and readings will include primary and secondary sources.

Required Reading (available at the bookstore)

Jeremy Popkin, *A Short History of the French Revolution* 8th edition (Routledge, 2024) 978-1032497372. Earlier editions are fine.

Laura Mason and Tracey Rizzo, *The French Revolution: A Document Collection* 2nd edition (Hackett, 2023) 978-1-64792-090-6

Jeremy Popkin, *A Concise History of the Haitian Revolution* 2nd edition (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021) 978-1119746331

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard

Course Requirements

Attendance, participation, responses (25%): Read assigned material, attend class, contribute to class discussions, give informal presentations, write informal responses.

Three-page paper, due Sept. 12 (10%)

Group presentation, 2nd half of semester, TBD (15%)

Mid-term (25%) on Oct. 14, and final exam (25%) on Dec. 13. Both are in-class exams consisting of essays and short answers. Make-up exams will be given only in the case of clearly documented emergencies or official school business approved ahead of time.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

OLD REGIME

8/26 **Introduction; Europe in the 18th century**

Read: Mike Rapport, "Europe in 1789," p. 3-9 [Blackboard]

8/28 **French monarchy and social structure**

Read: Popkin, 1-18; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 1-22 (Loyseau, Paris Parlement, Necker)

9/2 Labor Day, no classes

9/4 **Enlightenment**

Read: Popkin, 18-23; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 22-41 (Du Châtelet, Raynal, Charrière, Rousseau, Mercier)

Recommended: Robert Darnton, "The High Enlightenment and the Low-Life of Literature," in *The Literary Underground of the Old Regime* (1982)

9/9 **Colonial Saint-Domingue**

Read: Popkin, *Haitian Revolution*, chap. 1

9/11 **Awakening of the Third Estate**

Read: Popkin, 24-37; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 42-56 (King, Sieyès, Cahiers, National Assembly, Tennis Court)

9/12 **Three-page paper due at midnight**

REVOLUTIONARY RUPTURE

9/16 **Revolution from below**

Read: Popkin, 37-44; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 57-77 (Rural unrest, privileges, veto, women)

Recommended: Suzanne Desan, "Gender, Radicalization, and the October Days: Occupying the National Assembly," *French Historical Studies* 43, 3 (2020): 359-390

9/18 **Making a new regime**

Read: Popkin, 44-57; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 79-96, 247-251 (religious freedom, DRMC, Jews, divorce)

Recommended: Suzanne Desan, "The Political Power of Love: Marriage, Regeneration, and Citizenship," in *The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France* (2004)

9/23 **Countryside and Church**

Read: Popkin, 57-61; Mason and Rizzo, 120-143 (seigneurial rights, bread, dialects, friends, CCC)

Recommended: Timothy Tackett, "The Oath and the French Revolution," in *Religion, Revolution, and Regional Culture in Eighteenth-Century France* (1986)

9/25 **The flight of the king**

Read: Popkin, 57-71; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 144-150, 99-110, 112-119 (king, queen, de Gouges, Robespierre, Le Chapelier, Voltaire, Constitution)

Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* (2003), prologue and chap. 1

9/30 **Revolution in Saint-Domingue**

Read: Popkin, *Haitian Revolution*, chap. 2; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 96-99, 110-112 (people of color, Saint-Domingue)

10/2 **War, and the overthrow of the king**

Read: Popkin, 72-82; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 151-170 (Roland, War, Marseillaise, Brunswick, King, Massacres)

10/7 **Midterm exam**

RADICAL REVOLUTION

10/9 **King's trial**

Read: Popkin, 83-87; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 171-181 (trial)

10/14 **Popular movements**

Read: Popkin, 87-90; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 183-204, 213-222 (sans-culottes, Marat, Hébert, women, Ronchet, Vendée)

10/16 **Emancipation in Saint-Domingue**

Read: Popkin, *Haitian Revolution*, chap. 3; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 204-13 (Saint-Domingue)

10/21 **Legislating Terror**

Read: Popkin, 90-95; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 223-246 (constitution, terror, suspects, women, Danton, etc.)

10/23 **Film: Danton**

10/28 **Republican Culture**

Read: Popkin, 95-102; Mason and Rizzo, 251-263 (Lebrun, Monestier, Robespierre, Saint-Just)

10/30 **The Revolution devours its children**

Read: Popkin, 102-108; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 264-277 (Tallien, alarm, Prairial, Louis XVIII)

11/4 **Politics during the Directory**

Read: Popkin, 109-118; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 279-303 (Boissy, declaration, law, council, proclamation, address, proclamation)

11/6 **Dissent during the Directory**

Read: Popkin, 118-127; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 304-319 (Babeuf, Jullien, Chouan, Jacobin, anonymous, public)

11/11 **Culture during the Directory/Toussaint in power**

Read: Mason and Rizzo, 320-328 (Krignac, Maguy, Salm); Popkin, *Haitian Revolution*, chap. 4

NAPOLEON

11/13 **Consulate**

Read: Popkin, 128-142; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 329-340 (Napoleon, Concordat, Napoleon, Code) Suzanne Desan, "The Genesis of the Civil Code," in *The Family on Trial in Revolutionary France* (2004)

11/18 **Haitian War of Independence**

Read: Popkin, *Haitian Revolution*, chap. 5; Mason and Rizzo, pp. 340-351 (Napoleon, Leclerc, Toussaint, Constitution, Proclamation, Tonnerre)

11/20 **Age of War**

Read: Popkin, 143-148; Jakob Walter, "Memoirs," in Rafe Blaufarb, *Napoleonic Foot Soldiers and Civilians*, 76-101.

11/25 **Empire at home**

Read: Popkin, 148-156; Rafe Blaufarb, *Napoleon: Symbol for an Age*, pp. 79-100

11/27 **Decline and Fall**

Read: Popkin, 156-160; Blaufarb, *Napoleon: Symbol for an Age*, pp. 175-189

12/2 **Legacies**

Read: Popkin, ch. 9; Popkin, *Haitian Revolution*, chap. 6

12/4 Review

12/13 Friday, Final exam: 1:00-3:45 pm