

HISTORY 309: THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA:1789-1848

Fall Semester, 2000

Pierce Seminar Room, 12:30-1:50 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. David Leinweber

Office Hours, M., W., F., 2-4:00 p.m.

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I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. To understand the central events, issues, and trends which worked dominated the period sometimes referred to as "the revolutionary era."

B. To sharpen our critical writing and thinking skills. To this end, written assignments in this course will entail consideration of four important writing endeavors:

1. The Topic Paragraph
2. The Book Critique
3. The Interpretative Essay
4. The Research Driven Thesis Paper

C. To develop professional presentation skills.

II. COURSE READINGS

A. Primary Texts:

There are five texts assigned for your reading pleasure.

- A. Doyle, William, *The Origins of the French Revolution*.
- B. Palmer, Robert, *Twelve Who Ruled*.
- C. Markham, Felix, *Napoleon*.
- D. Roberts, The French Revolution
- E. Stearns, Peter, *The Revolutionary Tide in Europe*.

B. Additional Texts:

Excepts from relevant authors will be distributed by the instructor at appropriate times.

III. Grading

The grade in this course will be the average to two composite grades:

A. 50%: Short Papers. Five short papers will be assigned. These will deal with the readings in various ways. At least two of these short papers will be book critiques.

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- B. The student's score on a fifteen page research paper, accompanied by an in-class presentation of the student's research. If the student does a "good-faith effort" on this presentation, the student's paper grade will stand alone as the major research grade. If the instructor feels the student has not tried his/her best on the presentation, then the student's research paper grade may be lowered, at the discretion of the instructor.
- C. The instructor reserves the right to consider student's participation in class, attendance, or other related matters, as a factor in the grading process.

IV. Various Course Policies:

- A. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class at all times. 4 unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the student's grade by one full point. Attendance is recorded, and given consideration by the instructor during the tallying of final grades. The instructor reserves the right to penalize students for excessive absences, at his discretion.
- B. The Honor Code: Students are, of course, expected to honor both the letter and the spirit of Oxford's Honor Code.
- C. Practical application of any of the revolutionary theories and isms discussed in this course is strictly prohibited.

V. Course Schedule

The course calendar is attached. It is, of course, subject to change and adjustment, as the particular exigencies of the course unfold themselves.

Unit I: *L'Ancien Regime* (The Old Regime)

TEXTS:

- William Doyle, *The Origins of the French Revolution*
- Excerpted Writings

Short Papers due on 12

Unit II: The Coming of the French Revolution

TEXTS:

- George Lefebvre, *The Coming of the French Revolution*
- Excerpted Writings

Short Papers Due on September 28

Unit III: The French Revolution

TEXTS:

- J. Roberts, *The French Revolution*
- Excerpted Texts

Short Papers Due on October 12

Unit IV: Napoleon and the French Imperium

TEXTS:

Felix Markham, *Napoleon*

Excerpted Texts

Short Papers Due: October 31

Unit V: Romanticism: Reaction and Revolution

TEXTS:

Peter Stearns, *The Revolutionary Tide in Europe*

Excerpted Texts

Short Papers Due: November 14

Presentations: Classes from December 4-11

15 Page Papers Due: December 4

Final Examination: Mandatory Attendance, i.e. don't even *think* about missing the final.