French Revolution & Napoleon

Class code: Hist-UA9143

Instructor Details
Catherine Healey
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Class Details
French Revolution & Napoleon
Time: Wednesday 11am - 2pm

Prerequisites
None

Class Description
Lift your eyes as you walk down any street in Paris and you'll soon see a building adorned with the tricolore and the words Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité. Turn a corner and in the distance you'll see the Arc de Triomphe built to the glory of Napoleon's army or the Eiffel tower erected for the centennial of the fall of the Bastille. Even the metro stops, Concorde, Nation, République, Austerlitz, léna, echo with the memory of the years of the French Revolution and the First Empire.

But what historic reality does all this evoke? What led some French people to overthrow their age old Monarchy, turn their backs on the Church and launch into a new era of Republican government? What caused others to resist such changes with all their might? And why did the experiment end within 10 years, giving way to military dictatorship and an Empire which spread French rule across Europe?

This semester we shall explore these issues and others pertaining to the Age of the French Revolution & Napoleon through lectures, readings, discussions and site visits in and around the city of Paris.

Desired Outcomes
By the end of this class students should have a solid overview of the events of the French Revolution and Empire and understand their legacy today. They will have learned how to interpret the urban fabric of Paris and use museum exhibitions and artifacts to enhance their knowledge of the past

Assessment Components
Readings: Part of each class will be spent discussing readings from primary source documents and works of history assigned from the course reader and from the two basic texts for the course: Jeremy Popkin, A Short History of the French Revolution and David A. Bell, Napoleon: A Concise Biography on reserve in the NYU library or available for purchase.

You are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and ready to discuss it.

Students will be asked to become familiar with the web site:

Assigned visits: In addition to the reading requirements for the course, students will be asked to visit exhibitions, monuments or museums on their own outside class time. (Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, Place Vendome). They will be expected to take notes on the visit and come to class to give a specific report on what they have seen and learned.

This oral participation will count for 20% of the final grade.

Written work: A midterm and a final exam.
One 2 - 3 page report on Marais visit due Feb 10.
Two 5 - 8 page critical essays due March 17 and May 5.
Grading: Mid-term: 20%                Final: 30%
Written work: 30%         Participation in class discussions: 20%

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

NYU Paris aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students’ semester grades. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

As per the Global Academic standard, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.¹

Other guidelines specific to NYUParis include:

- **Attendance to class and all course-related events, even outside of regularly scheduled course times, is expected and mandatory. Some class outings/make-up classes take place on Fridays**
- **Under no circumstances will non-University-related travel constitute an excused absence from class.** DO NOT book travel until you have received and carefully studied the syllabus of each of your classes.
- **If you are not sick enough to go to the doctor, you are well enough to go to class.** Doctor’s notes will be expected for all medical-related absences.
- **No tests, quizzes, or exams will be made up.** A missed test, quiz, or exam will result in a zero. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Academic Affairs team, not your professor.

No late papers are accepted.

New York University in Paris, as an academic community, is committed to free and open inquiry, to creating an intellectual and social environment that promotes this, and to upholding the highest standards of personal and academic integrity.

All NYUP students have the responsibility to uphold these stated objectives. As a member of this community, you accept the responsibility for upholding and maintaining these standards, which include refraining from all forms of plagiarism and cheating as detailed below.

Cases of plagiarism at NYUParis will be brought to the attention of NYUParis

¹ NYU's "Policies and procedures for students studying away at a Global Academic Center"
academic administration as well as the implicated student’s home school Dean.

PLAGIARISM: a form of fraud, presenting someone else’s work as though it were your own
- A sequence of words from another writer who you have not quoted and referenced in footnotes
- A paraphrased passage from another writer’s work that you have not cited.
- Facts or ideas gathered and reported by someone else
- Another student’s work that you claim as your own
- A paper that is purchased or “researched” for money
- A paper that is downloaded free of charge from the Internet

CHEATING
- Copying from another student’s exam or quiz
- Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance (crib sheets, internet, etc.) during an exam or quiz
- Having someone take your exam
- Accessing an exam or quiz in an unauthorized fashion prior to its administration
- Collaborating with other students or unauthorized persons on a take home exam
- Using the same written material for two courses without the express permission of both instructors
- Fabricating or falsifying data

Required Text(s)
Jeremy Popkin, A Short History of the French Revolution, on reserve in the NYU library.
David A. Bell, Napoleon: A Concise Biography, available for purchase at the bookshop Eyrolles.
Course Reader to be purchased at Mistral Photo, 40 rue Saint Jacques, 75005.

Internet Research Guidelines

Additional Required Equipment
You are strongly advised to wear warm clothes and water proof shoes and carry a small notebook with you for taking notes at all on-site classes.

Session 1
Jan. 20
Introduction to the class

Session 2
Jan 27
The Ancien Régime: France in the 18th century - social and political structure
Readings: J. Merrick, "Gender in Pre-Revolutionary Political Culture"
R. Chartier, "A Desacralized King"

Session 3
Feb. 3
Life in Paris in 1789
Class visit: The Marais and their hôtels particuliers.
Extra visit: Le Palais Royal, la Bourse du Commerce

2 NYU's Expository Writing Department's Statement on Plagiarism
3 NYU Statement on Plagiarism
4 NYU Statement on Plagiarism
| | Madame de la Tour du Pin, Memoirs, ext.  
| | T. Kaiser, "From Fiscal Crisis to Revolution..."  
| | Short paper on Marais visit due. |
| Session 5 | 1789 - 1792: The Constitutional Monarchy  
| Feb 17 | Readings: Popkin, pp. 36-72.  
| | Declaration of Rights of Man.  
| Session 6 | 1792 - 1799: The Radical Years  
| Feb 24 | Reading, Popkin, pp. 73-110.  
| | R.D.E. Burton, Blood in the City Violence and Revolution in Paris, "Killing the King". |
| Session 7 | Mid term exam  
| March 2 | 1789 - 1889 - 1989 - 2016...The French Revolution in History and in the Present.  
| | Film in class: A. Wajda, Danton |
| Session 8 | Representations, images and symbols: the material culture of the French Revolution  
| March 9 | Visit: Revolution rooms of the Musée Caranvalet - Museum of the History of Paris |
| Session 9 | Devil Incarnate or Saint and Martyr: Marie-Antoinette and the Vision of Women in the French Revolution  
| March 16 | Readings: Lynn Hunt, "The Many Bodies of Marie-Antoinette"  
| | Anja Butenschon, "Remembering the Past...An Expiatory Chapel for Marie-Antoinette"  
| | Film: Sophia Coppola: Marie-Antoinette  
| | Visit: La Conciergerie  
| | First Paper due |
| Session 10 | France at War - Bonaparte in Egypt - The creation of a myth  
| March 23 | Directoire & Consulat  
| | Readings: Popkin, pp. 111-124  
| | Bell, Chapters 1 & 2  
| | Abu-Lughod, Tha Arab Rediscovery of Europe  
| | Extra visits: Père La Chaise cemetery, Rue de Rivoli & Place Vendôme |
| Session 11 | Empire I: The Achievements  
| March 30 | Readings: Popkin, pp. 125-150.  
| | Bell, Chapters 3 & 4  
| | Film: Serguei Bondarchuk: War & Peace  
| | Extra visit: Musée de la Légion d'Honneur |
| Session 12 | Empire II: Expansion and Fall  
| April 6 | Napoleon and the birth of European nationalism  
| | Readings: François Furet, Napoleon Bonaparte  
| | Bell, Chapter 5 & Epilogue |
| Session 13 | Napoleon I Empereur des Français: Napoleon's Legacy in France  
| April 13 | Class visit: Les Invalides |
Session 14
May 4
Review session
Final paper due

Session 15
May 11
Final Exam

Classroom Etiquette
- No eating in class.
- No cell phones in class.
- No laptop computers in class unless permission is expressly given by your professors.
- Leaving class to go to the bathroom or yawning in class is considered rude in France.

Your Instructor
Professor Healey completed her undergraduate work at Bryn Mawr College and her Ph. D. in Early Modern French History at the Johns Hopkins University. She has been teaching, researching and writing in France ever since. Her research interests are French Social and Cultural History (Early Modern and Modern)- The History of Paris -The Social and Cultural History of the Great War - History and Memory - Women’s History and Gender Studies.