

NYU Paris

Hist-UA9143, French Revolution and Napoleon

Instructor Information

- Catherine Healey
- Office Hours: Wed. 10am-12noon
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Course Information

- Hist-UA9143
- French Revolution and Napoleon
- Lift your eyes as you walk down any street in Paris and you will 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 Nation, République, Austerlitz, Iéna, echo with the memory of the years of the French Revolution and the First Empire. But what historical 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 cause others to resist such changes with all their might? Any why did the experiment end within ten years, giving way to a military dictatorship and an Empire which spread French rule across Europe? We shall explore these issues and others pertaining to the Age of the French Revolution and Napoleon through lectures, readings, discussions and site visits in and around the city of Paris.
- No prerequisites
- Lecture: Wednesday 3pm-4:30pm Recitations: Monday 3pm-4:30pm or Wednesday 4:30pm-6pm **NB. As our class falls on a Wednesday, the same day as two public holidays in France, May 1 and May 8 when NYU is closed, we will have two make up classes on Friday February 22 and Friday March 15. You will be expected to attend both classes.**

Course Overview and Goals

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Show a solid knowledge of the events of the French Revolution and Empire.

- Understand the legacy of the French Revolution in as it appears in French culture, society and political discourse today.
- To interpret the urban fabric of Paris and use museum exhibitions and artifacts to enhance their knowledge of the past.
- To discuss their findings and ideas in a clear manner in discussion and on paper.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

The Class is divided into two parts: an interrupted lecture with all students and 2 recitations where we divide into smaller groups to facilitate discussion of the readings. See below.

Exams:

Mid-term Exam: March 20

Final Exam: May 22

Written Work:

One 8-10 page research paper on a site in or around Paris associated with the French Revolution and Empire such as the Chapelle Expiatoire, the Arc de Triomphe, the château de Fontainebleau... More information will be provided in class.

Due on May 15.

Readings: They are taken from primary source documents and works of history assigned from the course reader and from the three basic texts for the course: Jeremy Popkin, *A Short History of the French Revolution*, Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* and David Bell, *Napoleon: A Concise Biography*. These three books are on reserve in the NYU Paris library and are available on line via Bobcat.

You are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to discuss it by answering the Reading Questions posted each week on NYU Classes. Class participation will count for 15% of your grade.

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. They will be expected to take notes on the visit and come to class to give a detailed report on what they have seen and learned.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Mid-term Exam March 20	20%
Final Exam May 22	30%
8-10 page research paper on a Paris site associated with the era of the Revolution or Empire. More information provided in class. Due May 15	35%
Class Participation	15%

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points	Description
A	16-20	Outstanding
A-	15	Excellent
B+	14	Very Good
B	13	Good
B-	12	Satisfactory
C+	11	Above Average

Letter Grade	Points	Description
C	10	Average
C-	9	Below Average
D+	8	Unsatisfactory
D	7	Low Pass
D-	6	Low Pass
F	5	Fail

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Feb.6	Introduction to the class: The Revolution and its heritage in France today		
Feb.13	The Ancien Régime: Social and Political Structure	R. Chartier, "A Desacralized King" Extra visit: Place de la Concorde - Versailles	Reading Questions 1
Feb. 20	Paris in 1789: Cafés, Cabarets, Theatre and the Press	R. Darnton, "An Early Information Society..." Extra Visit: The Palais Royal	Reading Questions 2
Friday Feb. 22 Make up day	Origins of the French Revolution	J. Popkin, pp. 1-35 J. Merrick, "Gender in Pre-Revolutionary Political Culture"	Reading Questions 3

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		T. Kaiser, "From Fiscal Crisis to Revolution..."	
Feb.27	1789-1792: The Constitutional Monarchy	J. Popkin, pp.36-72 R.D.E. Burton, "Taking of the Bastille" Timothy Tackett, <i>When the King Took Flight</i> , Chapters 1,2,3,4. Extra Visit:Place de la Bastille	Reading Questions 4
March 6	1792-1799: the Radical Republican Years	Popkin, pp.73-110 Tackett, Chapters 5,6,7,8 & Conclusion Tackett, "Conspiracy Obsession in a Time of Revolution" R.D.E. Burton, "Killing the King"	Reading Questions 5
March 13	Women & Minorities: Social Change or Status Quo?	Olympe de Gouges, <i>Declaration of the Rights of Women</i>	Reading Questions 6
Friday March 15 Make Up Day	Marie Antoinette: Devil Incarnate or Saint & Martyr Class Visit: The Conciergerie	Lynn Hunt, "The Many Bodies of Marie-Antoinette" Sophia Coppola, <i>Marie-Antoinette</i>	Reading questions 7
March 20	Mid-Term Exam Class Visit: The Pantheon	Exam Review	Exam Review
April 3	France at War, Bonaparte in Egypte <i>Directoire & Consulat</i>	Popkin, pp.111-124. Bell, Chapters 1&2 I. Abu-Lughod, "The Arab Rediscovery of Europe" Extra Visits: Père La Chaise Cemetery, Rue de Rivoli, Place Vendome	Reading Questions 8

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
April 10	Empire I: Achievements	Popkin, pp.125-150 Bell, Chapters 3&4 Extra Visit:Musée de la Légion d'Honneur	Reading Questions 9
April 17	Empire II: Expansion & Fall	Bell, Chapter 5 & Epilogue	Reading Questions 10
April 24	Napoleon's Legacy in France Class Visit: Les Invalides		
May 15	Napoleon's Legacy in Europe - Review session	H.A.L. Fisher, "The Legacy of Napoleon" L. Tolstoy, <i>War & Peace</i> , Book 9, Chapters 1,2,3,4,5,6,7.	Research Paper Due
May 22	Final Exam		

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- Jeremy Popkin, *A Short History of the French Revolution*, Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* and David Bell, *Napoleon: A Concise Biography*.
- Course Reader to be purchased at Mistral Photo, 40 rue Saint Jacques, 75007

Other Materials

- As a source of documents for the class, students will be asked to become familiar with the web site: *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*:
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/>

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](http://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](http://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](http://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

- 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 be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
- Unexcused absences affect students' grades: unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% deduction from the students' final course grade.
- Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

Illness: For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor's note, at the discretion of the Associate Director of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor's note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor's note.

Religious Observance: Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Associate Director, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

Please note: if you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly to notify them.

Late Assignment

Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

Plagiarism: *presenting others' work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one's own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products*

that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:

- *a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks*
- *an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another's work*
- *the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one's own*
- *submitting evaluations of group members' work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member*
- *altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.*

For further information, students are encouraged to check www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Instructor Bio

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.