SYLLABUS FOR EUH 3931 – THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (FALL 2019)

Jacques-Louis David, *The Tennis Court Oath* (1791), Musée Carnavalet (Paris)

**CLASS SCHEDULE:** T: 3:00PM–4:55PM/R: 4:05PM–4:55PM in 111 Keene-Flint Hall

Professor Anton Matytsin
Office: 230 Keene-Flint Hall
Office Hours: W: 2:00PM–4:00PM
E-mail: matytsina@ufl.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The French Revolution was a watershed moment in the history of the Western world. Many historians believe it was the beginning of modernity, as the Revolution ushered in seismic transformations in political, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life. These changes included turbulent popular upheavals that precipitated the unraveling of the existing social order, the unprecedented overthrow of a centuries-old monarchy, the rapid mutation of political institutions, the abolition of slavery, and the end of the Christian calendar. French armies exported the ideas and the institutions of the Revolution into neighboring European countries, while political leaders fighting for independence in Haiti and in Latin America appropriated the rhetoric of the French revolutionaries for their own purposes. The Revolution’s mythological legacy continued to inspire revolutionaries across the world far into the nineteenth century and beyond, making it an event of truly global significance. This course will begin by looking back at the Old Regime to explore the various factors that contributed to the end of the existing order. The Revolution’s singular importance has turned it into a minefield of controversial debates across generations of historians, who have attempted to account for its causes. We will then explore the Revolution in its many stages: from its radical republicanism, to the Reign of Terror, to the eventual rise of Napoleon. We will end the course by considering the Revolution’s short- and long-term effects.

**LEARNING GOALS:**
(1) Students will become familiar with the major events that occurred before and during the French Revolution. The lectures and secondary sources will offer students context and factual grounding. The primary sources will allow the students to have a first-hand experience of the period.
(2) Students will grapple with the complex, and often contradictory, historical explanations that surround these events. We will compare and contrast the assumptions, approaches, and methodologies of various historians and critically examine the interpretations that they offer. We will not just reflect on the Revolution itself, but on the historiographical debates surrounding it.

(3) Students will learn to read primary sources in a critical fashion, seeking to understand how and why these texts were produced and how they were received by contemporaneous audiences and by modern historians.

(4) The written assignments will enable the students to analyze these primary sources while improving their ability to express their ideas and arguments in a clear and convincing fashion.

(5) The discussions will let students to actively engage with the readings, their professor, and their peers. Students will be asked to argue a variety of perspectives and defend different points of view.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**


Note: Readings Marked as (C) are available for download on Canvas

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

Participation and Professionalism: 20%
Mid-Term Papers: 50% (25% each)
Final Paper 30%

Note: You must complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

**Grading Scale**

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For more information see: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

**Participation and Professionalism (20%)**:  

**A) Attendance:** You are expected to attend all scheduled meetings, complete all the assigned readings, participate in discussion, and behave in a respectable and collegial manner. You will be permitted two absences over the course of the term; every unexcused absence thereafter will lower your participation grade by one third. It is also important to arrive to class on time. Punctuality is a show of respect for your instructor and classmates and is important not just in class but in a job and your eventual career. Guidelines for excused absences can be found here: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences).
B) Readings: Please come to each lecture class having completed the assigned readings for that day. “To complete the readings” means allowing yourself sufficient time both to read through the assigned materials and to think about them. Please bring all assigned readings to class on the day for which the reading has been assigned. It is your responsibility to contact me if you have difficulty locating the reading assignments. We will not always talk about all of the readings directly. However, these texts were selected to provide you with a foundation for the material and issues covered.

C) Discussion: Bear in mind that “active participation” means asking good questions as well as proposing good answers. You are strongly encouraged to bring questions about the readings to class—If one of you had questions or difficulties, others certainly did as well. Active participation is essential for the success of this course. You will be regularly divided into groups and asked to prepare debate positions for our weekly discussions. These divisions will evolve as the different factions in the Revolution evolve.

Midterm Papers (50%): Students will write two papers on pre-assigned topics. The essays will be roughly 1500-2000 words in length. They will be based on your readings. You will be provided with prompts well in advance of the deadline. The papers will be due on September 16th and November 4th, respectively. Your essays will be turned in via the Canvas e-learning website and monitored with the Turnitin Anti-Plagiarism Service.

Final Paper (30%): The final paper will take the place of the final exam and will be due at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, December 10th. Like the first two papers, it will be based on the course readings. This essay will be 2000-2500 words in length.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS:

Extensions and Late Penalties: The penalty for turning in late assignments is one letter grade (A to B, B to C, and C to D) for each day that the assignment is late. Assignments that are over three days late will not be accepted and will automatically receive an F. Extensions will only be granted in case of extenuating circumstances, such as documented medical emergencies. Please note that you must complete all of the assignments in order to pass the course.

Classroom Etiquette: Laptop computers, tablet devices, and phones of all ranges of intelligence are not permitted in the classroom. Please refrain from using any electronic devices during our meetings, as they can be distracting to both you and your fellow classmates. In cases where your readings are available on Canvas, please try print the readings out and bring them to class.

Diversity and Inclusiveness in the Classroom: An open, inclusive environment in the classroom is key to our collective success and is something that the university and I value enormously. I hold myself and each student responsible for fostering a productive learning environment that supports and encourages diversity and inclusiveness. Diversity can include, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, and immigration status. Diversity also entails different perspectives, philosophies, and life experiences. I believe that by hearing and learning from a variety of sources and viewpoints, each of us will gain competence in communication, critical thinking, and cultural understanding, as well as an awareness of our implicit biases and how they shape our interactions with others and the world. This will make us better scholars, better citizens, and better people.

Contact: The University of Florida requires that you use your UF Gatorlink account for university related email communication. Please see http://www.it.ufl.edu/policies/#email to read more on this
It is important to check Canvas and your UF email accounts regularly. I will do my best to respond to all course-related emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends and during breaks. Please note that if you contact me about an assignment at the last minute, I may not have time to respond. Like most UF faculty, I treat e-mail as a formal means of communication. Your e-mails should be written with a basic greeting (i.e. Dear, Hello, Hi, then my name), body, and salutation (i.e. Thank you, Sincerely, Best, then your name). Proper grammar is expected.

**Office Hours:** My office hours are **Wednesdays 2:00PM-4:00PM** or by appointment. You are highly encouraged to attend office hours at least once during the semester. I would like to get to know each of you individually.

**STATEMENT REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY:**
Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code of the University of Florida. The Academic Honor Code is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student’s own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and responsibility on the part of the University community. For a full explanation of visit: [www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html). An excellent website that discusses plagiarism, correct citing of references, and correct use of quotations is: [http://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9](http://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9).

**COURSE EVALUATIONS:**
Students in this class will be participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors in order to enhance teaching effectiveness is linked seamlessly to UF’s CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via the web at: [https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at [https://evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.

**UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:**
**Disability Accommodations:** Students requesting accommodation should first register with the Dean of Students Office so that you have documentation for all your courses. For more information about services available to University of Florida students: Dean of Students Office Disability Resource Center, 202 Peabody Hall or 0020 Reid Hall Phone: (352) 392-1261/(352) 392-8570 or at: [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)

**UF Counseling and Academic Resources:** On-campus services are available for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. They include:

1. U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
2. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1575,
3. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1171
4. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, (352) 392-1161
6. E-learning technical support: (352) 392-4357/ email: Learningsupport@ufl.edu [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml).
7. Library Support, [http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask)
WEEK 1 (AUGUST 19–23): INTRODUCTION

Class 1 (Tuesday, August 20): Introduction to the Course

Class 2 (Thursday, August 22): The Importance of the Revolution
- Peter McPhee, *Liberty or Death: The French Revolution* (2016), x–xiii

WEEK 2 (AUGUST 26–30): THE OLD REGIME

Class 3 (Tuesday, August 27): The Patchwork of Privilege
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 1–22
- Charles Loyseau, *A Treatise on Orders* (1610) (C)
- *Parlementary Remonstrance against the Third “Twentieth” Tax* (1759) (C)
- Anne–Robert–Jacques Turgot, “Memorandum on Local Government” (1775) (C)

Class 4 (Thursday, August 29): Absolutism and Its Limits
- Jacques–Benigne Bossuet, “The Nature and Properties of Royal Authority” (1679) (C)
- Jacob–Nicolas Moreau, “On the Origins of the French Monarchy” (1773) (C)
- Louis–Adrien Le Paige, “Legislation and Public Police Powers” (1753) (C)
- *Parlementary Remonstrance against Reforms of Royal Debts* (1763) (C)
- Remonstrances of Parlement of Paris against Turgot’s Six Edicts (1776) (C)

WEEK 3 (SEPTEMBER 2–6): THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND INTELLECTUAL ORIGINS

Class 5 (Tuesday, September 3): The Intellectual Origins: The Enlightenment
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 23–38
- Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d’Alembert, *L’Encyclopédie* (1755) (C)
- Voltaire, *Philosophical Dictionary* (1765)
- Paul–Henri Thiry, Baron d’Holbach, *The System of Nature* (1770), ix–xv (C)

Class 6 (Thursday, September 5): The Intellectual Origins: Public Opinion
- Anecdotes of the Countess du Barry (1775)
- *Historical Essays on the Life of Marie–Antoinette, of Austria* (1783)
- Memorandum to the Queen Concerning the Diamond Necklace Affair (1786) (C)
WEEK 4 (SEPTEMBER 9–13): CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ORIGINS

Class 7 (Tuesday, September 10): The Cultural Origins


Class 8 (Thursday, September 12): The Economic Origins

- Anne–Robert–Jacques Turgot, “Letter to the King on Finance” (1774) (C)
- Jacques Neckier, “Account to the King” (1781) (C)
- Charles Gravier de Vergennes, “Memorandum against Neckier” (1781) (C)

WEEK 5 (SEPTEMBER 16–20): THE PRE-REVOLUTION

PAPER ONE DUE MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 AT 12:00PM

Class 9 (Tuesday, September 17): The Road to the Estates General

- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 39–57
- Chrétien–François de Lamoignon, “The Principles of the French Monarchy” (1787) (C)
- Charles Alexandre de Calonne “Programs of Reform” (1787) (C)
- Protests of the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Committees of the Assembly of Notables (1787) (C)
- Louis XVI’s Reply to the Parlement of Paris (1788) (C)

Class 10 (Thursday, September 19): Convening the Estates General

- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 58–80
- The *Cabiers de Doléances* (1789): Sample 1, Sample 2, Sample 3 (C)
- *Royal Decree Convoking the Estates-General* and the Parlementary Response (1788) (C)
- Petition of Women of the Third Estate to the King (1789) (C)
- Emmanuel–Joseph Sieyès, “What Is the Third Estate?” (1789) (C)

WEEK 6 (SEPTEMBER 23–27): FROM REFORM TO REVOLUTION (1789)

Class 11 (Tuesday, September 24): From the Estates General to the National Assembly

- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 39–64
- The King Speaks to the National Assembly: *Royal Session of 23 June 1789* (C)
- *The Mayor of Paris on the Taking of the Bastille* (C)
- Parisian Riots on 14 July (C)
• **A Conqueror of the Bastille Speaks** (C)

**Class 12 (Thursday, September 26): The Great Fear and the Abolition of Feudal Rights**
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 81–101
- **Decree of the National Assembly Abolishing the Feudal System** (11 August 1789) (C)
- **The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen** (26 August 1789) (C)
- Jacques–Guillaume Thouret, “**Report on the Basis of Political Eligibility**” (29 September 1789) (C)
- Maximilien Robespierre, “**Speech Denouncing the New Conditions of Eligibility**” (22 October 1789) (C)

**WEEK 7 (SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 4): THE RADICALIZATION OF THE REVOLUTION**

**Class 13 (Tuesday, October 1): The March on Versailles**
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 102–118
- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 64–69
- **The October Days** (1789)
- Stanislaus Maillard Describes the Women’s March (C)
- Nicolas Condorcet, “**On the Admission of Women to the Rights of Citizenship**” (1790) (C)
- Olympe de Gouges, *The Declaration of the Rights of Woman* (September 1791) (C)
- **The Abolition of Negro Slavery or Means for Ameliorating Their Lot** (1789) (C)
- Society of the Friends of Blacks, “**Address to the National Assembly in Favor of the Abolition of the Slave Trade**” (5 February 1790) (C)

**NO CLASS on Thursday, October 3**

**WEEK 8 (OCTOBER 7–11): A NEW ORDER**

**Class 14 (Tuesday, October 8): The Civil Constitution of the Clergy**
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 119–141
- Hunt and Censer, *The French Revolution and Napoleon*, 46–53
- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 70–95
- **The Civil Constitution of the Clergy** (12 July 1790) (C)
- Jean-Paul Marat, *Friend of the People* (29 December 1790; 17 February 1791) (C)

**Class 15 (Thursday, October 10): The Flight to Varennes**
- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 96–141
- **The King Flees Paris** (20 June 1791) (C)
- **The Flight to Varennes** (21–23 June 1791) (C)
- **Petitions of the Cordeliers and Jacobins** (July 1791) (C)
- Louis Apologizes (27 June 1791) (C)
- **Louis Accepts the Constitution** (14–25 September 1791) (C)
- **Press Reports of the King’s Flight**: Révolutions de Paris and Père Duchesne (1791) (C)
- Marie Antoinette’s View of the Revolution (8 September 1791) (C)
WEEK 9 (OCTOBER 14–18): THE FALL OF THE MONARCHY

Class 16 (Tuesday, October 15): The Legislative Assembly and the War
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 142–163
- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 142–171
- *The Padua Circular* (5 July 1791) (C)
- *The Declaration of Pillnitz* (27 August 1791) (C)
- Jean-Marie Roland, “Letter to the King” (10 June 1792)
- *Mobilization for War* (5 July 1792) (C)

Class 17 (Thursday, October 16): The September Massacres and the Fall of the King
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 164–187
- Hunt and Censer, *The French Revolution and Napoleon*, 65–70
- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 172–216
- *The Marseillaise* (C)
- *Parisian Petitions to Dethrone the King* (3 August 1792) (C)
- Michel Azema, *The Attack on the Tuileries* (10 August 1792) (C)
- Pierre-Louis Roederer, *The “Second Revolution” of 10 August 1792* (C)
- Nicolas-Edme Restif de la Bretonne, *The September Massacres* (C)
- John Gideon Millingen, *The Revolutionary Tribunal’s Use of the Guillotine* (C)

WEEK 10 (OCTOBER 21–25): LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY, OR DEATH

Class 18 (Tuesday, October 22): The Trial of Louis Capet
- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 217–44
- Hunt and Censer, *The French Revolution and Napoleon*, 77–84
- Louis-Antoine de Saint-Just, *Speech on the King’s Fate* (13 November 1792) (C)
- Nicolas Condorcet, *Response to Saint-Just* (3 December 1792) (C)
- Jean-Paul Marat, *Journal of the Republic on the King’s Fate* (3 December 1792) (C)
- Maximilien Robespierre, *Speech on the King’s Fate* (3 December 1792) (C)
- Louis-Antoine de Saint-Just, *Speech at the Trial of the King* (27 December 1792)
- Maximilien Robespierre, *Speech at the Trial of the King* (28 December 1792)
- Philippe Pinel, *The Execution of the King* (21 January 1793)

Class 19 (Thursday, October 24): The Crisis of 1793 and the Vendée
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 188–227
- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 244–279
- Hunt and Censer, *The French Revolution and Napoleon*, 84–93
- Louis-Marie Prudhomme, *The Coup against the Girondins* (31 May–2 June 1793) (C)
- Louis-Sébastien Mercier, *The New Paris* (C)
- *The Constitution of Year One* (24 June 1793) (C)
- *Decree against Profiteers* (July 1793) (C)
- *The Maximum* (29 September 1793) (C)
- Choudieu, *Description of the Counterrevolution in the Vendée* (25 August 1793) (C)
WEEK 11 (OCTOBER 28–NOVEMBER 1): THE REVOLUTION DEVOURS ITS CHILDREN

Class 20 (Tuesday, October 29): Terror Is the Order of the Day
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 228–251
- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 280–334
- Hunt and Censer, *The French Revolution and Napoleon*, 93–107
- “Terror Is the Order of the Day” (5 September 1793) (C)
- The Law of Suspects (17 September 1793) (C)
- Discussion of Women’s Political Clubs and Their Suppression (29–30 October 1793) (C)
- The Trial of Olympe de Gouges (2 November 1793) (C)
- Robespierre, “On the Principles of Political Morality” (5 February 1794) (C)
- The Revolutionary Calendar (October 1793) (C)
- Watch *Danton* (1983)

Class 21 (Thursday, October 31): The End of Robespierre
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 252–73
- Tackett, *The Coming of the Terror*, 334–349
- Camille Desmouillins, “The Revolution Devours Its Own” (15 December 1793) (C)
- The Law of 22 Prairial Year II (10 June 1794) (C)
- The Eighth of Thermidor (26 July 1794) (C)
- The Ninth of Thermidor (27 July 1794) (C)
- The Conspiracy against Robespierre (27 July 1794) (C)
- The Eleventh of Thermidor (29 July 1794) (C)

WEEK 12 (NOVEMBER 4–8): THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION

PAPER TWO DUE MONDAY NOVEMBER 4 AT 12:00PM

Class 22 (Tuesday, November 5): The Slave Uprising
- Viefville des Essars, *On the Emancipation of the Negroes* (1790) (C)
- Antoine-Pierre Barnave, “Speech for the Colonial Committee” (8 March 1790) (C)
- Decree Abolishing Slavery in all the Colonies (4 February 1794) (C)

Class 23 (Thursday, November 7): Fighting for Independence
  - The Haitian Declaration of Independence (1 January 1804) (C)

WEEK 13 (NOVEMBER 11-15): THE THERMIDIORIAN REACTION AND THE DIRECTORY

Class 24 (Tuesday, November 12): Dismantling the Terror
- McPhee, *Liberty or Death*, 274–296
- Nicolas Condorcet, *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind* (1795) (C)
- Pierre–Toussaint Durand–Maillane, “Dismantling the Terror” (1794) (C)
- The Constitution of the Year III (1795) (C)
- Decree Creating Primary Schools (17 November 1794) (C)
- Gracchus Babeuf, “The Doctrine of Babeuf” (C)
- The Trial of Gracchus Babeuf (1796) (C)

Class 25 (Thursday, November 14): The Directory
- McPhee, Liberty or Death, 297–320
- Hunt and Censer, The French Revolution and Napoleon, 122–127
- The Coup of 18 Fructidor: Proclamation of 9 September 1797 (C)
- Nicolas–Louis François de Neufchâteau, Circular on Elections (4 March 1799) (C)

**WEEK 14 (NOVEMBER 18–22): THE RISE OF NAPOLEON**

Class 26 (Tuesday, November 19): From the Directory to the Consulate
- McPhee, Liberty or Death, 321–41
- Napoleon Bonaparte, Justification of the Coup of 18 Brumaire (10 November 1799) (C)
- The Council of Five–Hundred Concurs (10 November 1799) (C)
- Napoleon, Account of His Coup d’Etat (10 November 1799) (C)

Class 27 (Thursday, November 21): Consul for Life and Emperor
- Hunt and Censer, The French Revolution and Napoleon, 142–169
- Popkin, A Concise History of the Haitian Revolution, 114–141
- Making Peace with the Catholic Church (1801–1802) (C)
- Napoleon, Oath as Consul for Life (4 August 1802) (C)
- Napoleon, Reasons for Making Himself Emperor (December 1804) (C)

**WEEK 15 (NOVEMBER 25–29): NAPOLEON IN POWER**

Class 28 (Tuesday, November 26): The Rise and Fall of the Napoleonic Empire
- The Continental System (1806) (C)
- The Dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire (1 August 1806) (C)
- An Ordinary Soldier’s Account (1806) (C)
- Philippe de Ségur, The Burning of Moscow (C)
- Philippe de Ségur, The Effect of the Russian Winter (C)
- Jardin Ainé, The Battle of Waterloo (June 1815) (C)

**WEEK 16 (DECEMBER 2–6): CONCLUSIONS**

Class 29 (Tuesday, December 3): Effects of the Revolution
- McPhee, Liberty or Death, 342–70
- Hunt and Censer, The French Revolution and Napoleon, 211–218
- Alexis de Tocqueville, The Ancien Régime and the Revolution, 185–207