

Tentative Syllabus

# Absolutism & Enlightenment

Kings, Revolution, New Ideas, and the Napoleonic Empire



**Spring 2016**

History 50:510:321

Professor Mokhberi

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 and Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm

In 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-century Europe, dynamic changes in ideas, culture, and politics swept Europeans into the modern age. Students will learn about new philosophies and major upheavals, including the French Revolution and the rise and fall of Napoleon.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

-In-class Midterm Exam: 20%

-In-class Final Exam: 30% (There are NO MAKEUP EXAMS for the midterm or final.)

-Paper 1\*: 20%

-Paper 2\*: 20%

Each paper must be 4-6 pages in length. There will be a total of THREE topic choices and you MUST choose TWO. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED. A hardcopy of the paper must be submitted in class and another copy via the Sakai website. Failure to follow the submission instructions will result in a lower grade.

-Attendance/Participation: 10%

Attendance is crucial to this course. You are allowed only **two missed classes**. More than two missed classes will result in a lower grade. You are expected to come to class on time. Repeated tardiness will lower your grade. Your participation in class discussions (especially days designated to discuss the books for the papers) will also affect your overall participation grade.

READING: Five books are for purchase at the bookstore and listed below. Shorter readings will be posted online. You must do all the reading to do well on the exams and the papers.

## BOOKS FOR PURCHASE

Richelieu, *The Political Testament* trans. Henry Bertram Hill

Lady Montagu, *Turkish Embassy Letters*, Oxford World Classics Beaumarchais, *The Figaro Trilogy: The Barber of Seville, The Marriage of*

*Figaro*, Oxford World Classics Isser Woloch, *Eighteenth-Century Europe: Tradition and Progress: 1715-1789*

(Second Edition, Publisher Norton & Co.) Jack Censor and Lynn Hunt, *Liberty Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution* (Penn State University Press) NOTE: All other Readings will be posted online.

ETIQUETTE: Please come on time, silence cell phones, and refrain from surfing the Internet during class. It is your responsibility to obtain any missing notes from a fellow student. Feel free to email me with a respectful, formal email and I will try my best to reply as promptly as possible.

PLAGIARISM will be taken very seriously and will be reported. Feel free to discuss the course material and your paper ideas with other students but you can only hand in your own individual work.

LEARNING GOALS: Students will obtain an understanding of the themes and political events of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Europe, including the Enlightenment and French Revolution. Students will also practice their analytic skills by reading novels or plays and writing about their historical context.

–Understand the main events in the history of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Europe

–Describe absolutist monarchies and Enlightenment critiques

–Learn how new philosophic and scientific ideas translated into new political regimes.

–Analyze primary source texts within their historical context.

– Compose well-written, organized, and persuasive essays.

### Week 1

Jan. 19: The State in Seventeenth-Century Europe  
Jan 21: Richelieu and The Thirty Years' War

#### Reading:

**Richelieu, The Political Testament** (For Purchase)

### Week 2

Jan. 26: French Absolutism: Louis XIV  
Jan. 28: Absolutist States Part II: Prussia and Peter the Great  
Film Clips (Roberto Rossellini's *The Taking of Power of Louis XIV*)

#### Reading:

Memoirs of the Duke de Saint Simon (online)  
Woloch, pages 1-29

### Week 3

Feb. 2: **Discussion** of Richelieu's *Testament* and the Scientific Revolution  
Feb. 4: Non-Absolutist States Part: England

#### Reading:

John Locke, *Two Treatises on Government* (online)  
Select Documents on Prussia (online)  
Bishop Burnet on Peter the Great (online)  
Woloch, pages 29-45

### Week 4

Feb. 9: England Part II  
Feb. 11: The Dutch Republic (**Richelieu Paper due!**)

#### Reading:

Voltaire, "On Religion" & excerpt from *Candide* (online)  
Kant, "What is the Enlightenment?" (online)  
Description of the Empress Maria Theresa (online)  
Woloch, pages 46-72; 181-212

**\* Paper due Feb. 11 on Richelieu's *Political Testament* \***

### Week 5

Feb. 16: Maria Theresa and the Seven Years' War  
Feb. 18: Taste for the East

#### Reading:

Benevolent Despotism by Frederick the Great (online)  
The Magic Flute by Mozart (online)  
Excerpt from the *Persian Letters* (online)  
Excerpt from John Chardin, *Travels in Persia* (online)  
**Lady Montagu, *The Turkish Letters*** (For purchase)

### Week 6

Feb. 23: Enlightenment  
Feb. 25: **Discussion** of Lady Montagu and Enlightenment Continued

**Reading:**

Woloch, pages 213-238

Thomas Jefferson, "A Summary View of the Rights of British America" (online)

**Week 7**

Mar. 1: Midterm Exam

Mar. 3: **Movie**

**Readings:**

Woloch, pages 256-287

**Week 8**

Mar. 8: Enlightened Absolutism and Quiz on Movie

Mar. 10: American Revolution

**Reading:**

**Beaumarchais, *The Marriage of Figaro*** (for purchase) Woloch, pages 288-309; 309-325

**Week 9**

Mar. 15 & Mar. 17: **No Class, SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10**

Mar. 22: French Revolution Causes I (**Paper on Lady Montagu Due!**)

Mar. 24: French Revolution Causes II

**Reading:**

*Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (August 1789) (online)

Rousseau's *Social Contract* (online)

Censor & Hunt, pages TBA

**\* Paper Due Mar. 22 on Lady Montagu, *The Turkish Letters* \***

**Week 11**

March 29: French Revolution I

March 31: French Revolution II

**Reading:**

Robespierre, Justification for the use of Terror

Thomas Jefferson on the French Revolution (online)

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the French Revolution* (1791) (online)

Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man* (online)

Censor & Hunt, pages 1-47

**Week 12**

April 5: **Discussion** of *The Marriage of Figaro* and French Revolution III

April 7: Marie Antoinette and Women under the Revolution

**Reading:**

Olympe de Gouges, Declaration of the Rights of Women (1791) (online)

Censor & Hunt, pages 49-82

**Week 13**

April 12: Revolution in the Colonies

April 14: Napoleon (**Paper due on Marriage of Figaro!**)  
**Reading:** Censor & Hunt, pages 83-114 (Look at the Images too!)

**\* Paper Due April 14 on Beaumarchais, *The Marriage of Figaro* \***

**Week 14**

April 19: Movie – “Danton”

April 21: Napoleon continued and Quiz on “Danton”

**Reading:**

Civil Code (1804) (online)

Napoleon’s Coup d’Etat (online)

Censor & Hunt, pages 115-138; 139-169

**Week 15**

April 26: The Congress of Vienna

April 28: Conclusion

**Reading:** Censor & Hunt, pages 171-196

**Final Exam – In class Exam - To Be Announced**

NOTE: Syllabus subject to change by instructor.