**The Era of the French Revolution and Napoleon**

50:510:322

Instructor: Chris Golding Tuesday, 6-8.40pm

Fall 2016 Room TBD

cgolding@gmail.com

**Course Description**

Considered by some to be the greatest single event in human history, the French Revolution shook the world. This course will examine how and why this social and political explosion took place in France, how it affected the world, and why Napoleon and his warring ways were the outcome of such a cataclysmic event.

**Course Requirements**

* First and foremost it is expected that you will keep up with the course reading as assigned (details below).
* You can expect short quizzes of varying weight (posted to sakai or in class) related to weekly readings of Censer and Hunt. Quiz grades will be taken from the “Attendance and Participation” portion of the course grade as we progress. Quizzes posted online will be posted in the folder associated with the week’s reading.
* Your attendance and engagement in our class meetings will represent a significant portion of your grade. Given the limited number of meetings, it is important that you come prepared and ready to be involved in discussions of the readings.
* Book Reviews: You will write book reviews for three of the books that we will be reading (Tackett, Bell, and Muir). These reviews will be short critical reviews (1,000 words). The goal will be to provide a summary of the argument, and assess the success or failure of the author in making that argument. Each review should give attention to the types of sources (methodology) that the author employs in making their argument.
* Final Exam: The final exam for this course will be a take-home exam (essay) covering the material read and discussed in class. Details to follow.

**Grading**

Attendance and Participation 30%

Book Reviews 45%

Final Exam 25%

**Required Books**

William Doyle, *Origins of the French Revolution*, 3rd ed. (Oxford Univ. Press)

Jack R. Censer and Lynn Hunt, *Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution* (Penn. State Univ. Press)

Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* (Harvard Univ. Press)

David A. Bell, *The First Total War* (Mariner)

Rory Muir, *Tactics and Experience of Battle in the Age of Napoleon* (Yale Univ. Press)

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1** (September 6) The Absolutist State and the Public Sphere  
 *Origins of the French Revolution*, Part I

**Week 2** (September 13) A Changing World: The Third Estate Rises

*Origins of the French Revolution,* Part II

*Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity*, Chapter 1

[skim chapter, but read documents.]

*When the King Took Flight,* Prologue and Ch. 1-4

**Week 3** (September 20) A Revolution for What?

*Origins of the French Revolution*, Part III

*Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity*, Chapter 2

*When the King Took Flight,* Ch. 5-Conclusion

**Review of *When the King Took Flight* due**

**Week 4** (September 27) Revolutionaries and Counter-Revolutionaries

*Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity*, Chapter 3

*The First Total War*, Intro and Ch. 1-4

**Week 5** (October 4) A World War

*Liberty, Equality and Fraternity*, Chapter 4

*The First Total War,* Ch. 5-Epilogue

**Review of *The First Total War* due**

**Week 6** (October 11) The Corsican Ogre: Napoleon Bonaparte’s France

*Liberty, Equality and Fraternity*, Chapter 5

*Tactics and Experience*, Parts I & II

**Week 7** (October 18) A New World Order: Congress of Vienna and the 19th c.

*Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity*, Chapter 6

*Tactics and Experience*, Parts III & IV

**Review of *Tactics and Experience* due**

**Final Exam** (October 25)

**Course Policies**

**Course Goals**

The description of this course is listed above, and provides the basic outline of the narrative the course will follow. In addition to the history of the British Empire, this course will also stress skills in critical reading and thinking, ability to engage in group discussion of readings and ideas, and a general appreciation for historical context.

**Attendance**

Given the small number of course meetings that we will have, your attendance is of paramount importance. Therefore, absences will not be excused without effect on your final grade outside of special circumstances. Our meetings will be structured with an opening lecture that will help to advance and contextualize the readings, which will then be followed by discussion of the reading as a group. These discussions will be a significant part of what the group gets out of this course, so it will be important that you come prepared and willing to involve yourself in discussion.

**Office Hours**

While I am not going to schedule specific office hours, I am more than happy to meet with you either before or after class. If you wish to meet before class, just give me a heads up and I will get to the building a bit earlier to see you. I am readily available by email, and that is the best way to reach me with pressing matters or concerns.

**Assignments**

All assignments are to be submitted electronically. If you do not get confirmation from me that I have your assignment, please check back and make sure it was received. Grammar and spelling are important. Take advantage of spell-check and proofread your assignments before you submit them to me.

**Late Assignments**

For each day that an assignment is overdue I will subtract 5% from the grade, until a week following the due date after which I will not accept the assignment and you will receive a 0. So, for example, an assignment due on a Friday that is received on Sunday will have 10% removed from the final grade.

If you are having a problem, and suspect you will not get an assignment in to me on time, *speak to me in advance of the deadline*. Do not wait until after the fact to announce a problem, as I will be significantly less sympathetic at that point.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

*“Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Joint efforts are only legitimate when the assistance of others is explicitly acknowledged…The principles of academic integrity entail simple standards of honesty and truth. Each member of the university has a responsibility to uphold the standards of the community and to take action when others violate them…Students are responsible for knowing what the standards are and for adhering to them. Students should also bring any violations of which they are aware to the attention of their instructors.”*