

## The Age of Revolution

History 3364  
Fall 2003

CRN 95068  
McBryde 210

Professor Tom Ewing

Office hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:00, Thursday 12:30-1:30, and by appointment

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This course provides a sustained examination of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Empire in their European and global contexts. Readings, lectures, discussions, and assignments explore the social and intellectual roots of the revolutionary movement, the political and economic dimensions of republican transformations, the crisis in ideals and institutions associated with the spreading violence, the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte as commander, politician, and ultimately emperor, and the contours and consequences of more than two decades of constant warfare.

This course is meant to promote three specific learning objectives:

- To learn about the main events, people, and processes of the age of revolution
- To understand how these events, people, and processes shaped the development of the modern world
- To acquire, practice, and improve analytical skills through a process of active learning

### Required books:

Jack R. Censer and Lynn Hunt, eds., *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. Exploring the French Revolution*  
Penn State Press, 2001. ISBN: 0271020881 with CD-ROM. Website: [chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/](http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/)

Margaret C. Jacob, ed., *The Enlightenment. A Brief History with Documents*  
Bedford/St. Martin's, 2001. ISBN: 0312179979

Jeremy Popkin, *A Short History of the French Revolution* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition  
Pearson Education, Prentice Hall. ISBN: 0130600326

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*  
Penguin Classic, Viking Press, 1982 reprint, ISBN: 0140432043.

Thomas Paine, *Rights of Man*  
Penguin USA, 1984 reprint. ISBN: 0140390154

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*  
Penguin Classic, 1992. ISBN: 0140433627

### Course requirements:

Date	Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Sept 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17	Quizzes (5 @ 5 %)	25
October 15	Exam	20
November 19	Exam	20
December 5	Final Essay (6 pages)	15
As assigned	Writing Assignments (approximately 20)	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

This course is designed to encourage active learning, in which students' engagement with the material, with the instructor, and with each other is essential to the process of learning. Most of the course will be taught in a lecture format, but with ample time for questions and occasional periods of discussion. In order to understand the lectures, ask questions, and participate in the discussions, students should do the reading ahead of time, following the schedule outlined below. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class, either to clarify lectures and readings or to explore connections between class materials and

contemporary events. Students are also welcome to ask questions and pursue further discussion with the instructor during office hours or via email. Questions on quizzes and exams will be taken from readings, lectures (including examples, illustrations, and topics not necessarily included in readings), and discussions. Six quizzes will be administered; the five highest grades will be counted toward the semester grade. The final essay is a cumulative interpretation of the age of revolution and will be based entirely on assigned readings, lectures, and other assignments. Students will have a choice of three questions in writing the final essay. Writing assignments will be completed in class or handed out for completion and discussion in the next class. Each assignment will be designated as either ungraded or graded on a three point scale. Writing assignments can be made up by turning in the assignments prior to the beginning of the next class. All work must conform to the Virginia Tech Honor Code. The instructor's website ([www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/index.htm](http://www.majbill.vt.edu/history/ewing/index.htm)) contains a link to the syllabus, lecture outlines, writing assignments, and supplemental texts used in class. Relevant materials will be made available on the Website following each class.

### Schedule of Classes:

Date	Topic	Assignment
August 25	Introduction: Historical Analysis and the Age of Revolution	
August 27	Overview: Europe in the 1700s	Popkin, <i>French Revolution</i> pp. 1-20
September 1	<b>Quiz</b> Overview: 1789	Popkin, <i>French Revolution</i> pp. 21-35
September 3	<b>Quiz</b> Overview: Debating Rights	Popkin, <i>French Revolution</i> pp. 36-52
September 8	<b>Quiz</b> Overview: Search for Order	Popkin, <i>French Revolution</i> pp. 53-72
September 10	<b>Quiz</b> Overview: Rise of Napoleon	Popkin, <i>French Revolution</i> pp. 73-110
September 15	<b>Quiz</b> Overview: Europe at War	Popkin, <i>French Revolution</i> pp. 111-123
September 17	<b>Quiz</b> Overview: Fall of Napoleon	Popkin, <i>French Revolution</i> pp. 124-138
September 22	Patterns of New Thinking	Jacobs, <i>Enlightenment</i> pp. 1-58, 73-94
September 24	Cultural Challenges	Jacobs, <i>Enlightenment</i> pp. 114-207
September 29	France under the Old Regime	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 1-48 Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> CD-ROM Ch. 1
October 1	Origins of the Crisis	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 49-66 Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> CD-ROM Ch. 2
October 6	France in Revolution	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 66-84

		CD-ROM Chs. 3-4 Jacobs, <i>Enlightenment</i> pp. 59-71
October 8	Monarchy Embattled	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> “Study in Images” CD-ROM Chs. 5-6; “How to Read Images”
October 13	Revolution in Power	CD-ROM “Songs of the Revolution”
October 15	<b>Exam</b>	
October 20	Rise and Decline of the Terror	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 85-114 CD-ROM Ch. 7 Start reading Burke, <i>Reflections</i> and Paine, <i>Rights of Man</i>
October 22	The Context of the Revolution	Burke, <i>Reflections</i> and Paine, <i>Rights of Man</i>
October 27	Debating Rights under Law	Burke, <i>Reflections</i> and Paine, <i>Rights of Man</i>
October 29	Revolution in Crisis	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 139-144
November 3	Napoleon as Consul and Emperor	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 144-150
November 5	Military Triumphs	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 150-161
November 10	Empire at Home	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 161-169
November 12	Revolution in the Colonies	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 115-138 CD-ROM Ch. 8
November 17	The Defeat of Napoleon	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> CD-ROM Ch. 9
November 19	<b>Exam</b>	
December 1	Revolutionary Settlements	Start reading Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
December 3	Romanticism and the Revolution <b>Final Essay due December 5</b>	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
December 8	Legacies of 1789	Popkin, <i>French Revolution</i> pp. 139-150
December 10	The Age of Revolution	Censer and Hunt, <i>Liberty</i> pp. 171-196 CD-ROM Ch. 10