

HIST 301: MODERN EUROPE I (The Eighteenth Century)
University of Oregon – Fall 2018 – CRN [12883](#)

Instructor: Professor Ian F. McNeely, Department of History

Meeting times: TR 8:30-9:50 in MCK 129

Email: imcneely@uoregon.edu

Office hours: TR 10:00-10:50 in MCK 319 and by appointment

Canvas site: <https://canvas.uoregon.edu/courses/115636>

My homepage: <http://pages.uoregon.edu/imcneely>

Course description

Enlightenment values of reason, tolerance, and open debate are in many ways the foundation for modern society and political norms. We should never take them for granted, least of all today. This course introduces students to the Age of Enlightenment in eighteenth-century Europe, running through the French Revolution to the authoritarian rule of Napoleon Bonaparte. We will highlight issues of politics, culture, and thought, with secondary attention to accompanying changes in social and economic life. The focus will be on the core countries of France, Great Britain, and the German-speaking lands, which together drove developments elsewhere on the continent. Primary-source readings include both men's and women's voices, drawn mostly but not exclusively from highly literate social strata. We will also read secondary accounts by modern historians, both popular and scholarly. Towards the end of the term, students will conduct a mock trial of King Louis XVI in class. From time to time, I will feature music, art, and architecture—and suggest films—to help the period come alive. While mindful of its present-day resonances, we will strive to understand the past on its own terms.

Expected learning outcomes

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Recount the basic chronology and geography of Europe from the Peace of Westphalia to the fall of Napoleon
2. Explain the cardinal values, ideas, and debates of the Enlightenment, as well as the media and institutions of their propagation
3. Describe the evolution of Old Regime social, economic, religious, gender, and political identities and practices, particularly under the Enlightenment's influence
4. Explain the causes and course of the French Revolution—and the range of ideological reactions it provoked—through the founding of Napoleon's Empire
5. Explicate, interpret, and contextualize complex, nuanced primary sources
6. Analyze a book-length secondary-source argument by a professional historian

Estimated workload

Expect to spend about 6 hours a week reading outside of class, and another hour for each of the eight weekly pre-class quizzes. That said, some weeks require more time reading than others, so study the syllabus and plan ahead. Budget around 10 hours for the required writing project, and 6 hours apiece for the two take-home exams.

Assignments and grading

Tue. 10/23	Take-home midterm due (given out on Thu. 10/18)	20%
Tue. 11/20	5-6 page writing project due (given out on Thu. 10/25)	20%
Fri. 12/7	Take-home final due (given out on Thu. 11/29)	20%
(variable)	8 mandatory pre-class quizzes on starred readings below	40%

Pre-class quizzes will be posted on Canvas under [Quizzes](#) 48 hours in advance and must be completed *online* before class begins. The midterm exam and writing project should each be submitted on Canvas under [Assignments](#) by 11:30am on the date indicated; use DOC, DOCX, or PDF file formats only. Grades are calculated using UO's standard scale (A = 94-100%, A- = 90-94%, B+ = 87-90%, etc.).

Readings #1, 6, and 11 can be bought at the [UO Duckstore](#) and are also [on reserve](#) at Knight Library. Others are on Canvas under [Files > READINGS](#). I also suggest you consult "[How to Mark a Book](#)," posted [in my website](#).

1. James R. **Gaines**, *Revolution in the Palace of Reason: Bach Meets Frederick the Great in the Age of Enlightenment* (2006). ISBN: 978-0007156610.
2. *The New French Republic*, ed. by Hans T. David, Arthur Mendel, and revised by Christopher **Clague** (1998), 248-56. ISBN 978-0-393-31956-9.
3. Louis-Sebastien **Mercier**, *Panorama of Paris*, ed. Jeremy Popkin (1999), 23-32, 92-99, 156-8, 202-9. ISBN: 978-0-271-01931-4.
4. Mary Wortley **Montagu**, *Letters* (1992), 18-21, 26-31, 104-10, 175 (sic)-79. ISBN: 978-0679417477.
5. François-Marie Arouet de **Voltaire**, *Philosophical Dictionary* (1984 [1764]), 21-29, 212-15, 272-73, 334-38, 349-60, 386. ISBN: 978-0140442571.
6. Georges **Lefebvre**, *The Coming of the French Revolution*, trans. R.R. Palmer, revised ed. with intro. by Tim Tackett (2015 [1939]). ISBN: 978-0691168463.
7. Edmund **Burke**, *The Portable Edmund Burke*, ed. Isaac Kramnick (1999), 428-29, 441-443, 445-49, 450-52 (note arrows [→] in text). ISBN: 978-0140267600.
8. Mary **Wollstonecraft**, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1793 [1792]), vi-xi, 59-64. <https://goo.gl/NqvMMU>.
9. Michael **Walzer** (ed.), *Regicide and Revolution: Speeches at the Trial of Louis XVI*, trans. Marian Rothstein (1993). ISBN: 978-0231082594. **Instructions:** I will assign each student one speech; read yours very closely, then scan the others for both allied and opposing views. More guidance will be given in class.
10. Olivier **Blanc**, *Last Letters: Prisons and Prisoners of the French Revolution* (1987), 87-90, 130-48, 157-59, 208-13. ISBN: 978-0374183868.
11. Rafe **Blaufarb** and Claudia **Liebeskind**, *Napoleonic Foot Soldiers and Civilians: A Brief History With Documents* (2011). ISBN: 978-0-312-48700-3.
12. Madame de **Staël**, *Ten Years' Exile*, trans. Avriel H. Goldberger (2000), 4-7, 18-28. ISBN: 078-0875802558

SCHEDULE

* indicates a mandatory pre-class online quiz (posted on Canvas 48 hours in advance)
 1,2,3,4,5,6 indicate which learning outcomes are emphasized on a given day (see p. 1 above)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings/assignments</u>
9/25	The landscape of the Old Regime ¹	Start Gaines
9/27*	European politics, 1648-1756 ¹	Continue Gaines
The Old Regime and the Enlightenment		
10/2	Villages, towns, cities, and courts ³	Finish Gaines
10/4*	Protestants, Catholics, and Jews	Bach
10/9	Coffee houses, salons, lodges, and print ²	Mercier
10/11*	Sex, gender, class, and race	Montagu
10/16*	Religion and reform ^{2,4}	Voltaire
10/18	Government and economics ^{2,5}	(none – catch up)
10/23	<i>Study about a review and preview</i>	<i>Midterm due</i>
10/25	Science and medicine	Start Lefebvre
The French Revolution and Napoleon		
10/30*	Atlantic republicanism, 1756-1789 ^{1,6}	Lefebvre, parts I-III
11/1	From the <i>cahiers</i> to the rights of man ^{4,6}	Continue Lefebvre
11/6*	Britain in 1790 ^{3,5}	Burke
11/8	The Jacobin republic ⁴	Wollstonecraft
11/13*	The King's trial ^{4,5} (<i>in-class simulation</i>)	Walzer
11/15	Napoleon's military revolution ^{1,4}	Blanc
11/20	The German educational revolution ^{2,3,4}	<i>Writing project due</i> ⁶
11/22	THANKSGIVING	
11/27	Napoleon's political revolution ⁴	Blaufarb/Liebeskind
11/29*	The resistance ^{4,5}	Staël

Course policies

You are responsible for reviewing the “[Course policies](#)” on my homepage for policies on attendance, making up late or missed work, classroom etiquette, use of technology in class, accessibility and disability accommodation, paper formatting and source citation, academic integrity and plagiarism, and the recording of lectures and sharing of notes.