The French Revolution remains one of the crucial events of modern European and world history; for over 200 years, it has been celebrated, commemorated, and debated. This class will introduce students to the dramatic events which saw the end of Old Regime Europe through the displacement of the Church as the source of moral authority; the dismantling of the feudal social system; and the overthrow of a 1000-year old monarchy. We will discuss in detail the Revolutionary debates over how to enshrine new principles of human rights, individual liberty, representative democracy and social equality in law and to establish the largest republic in history to that time.

We will consider the relationship between political reform and warfare, since throughout the period of the Revolution, France was at war internally and with much of the rest of Europe. We will also analyze the ways in which the Revolution transformed culture, so that men and women came to think of themselves in new ways. Finally, we will seek to understand the unexpected culmination of these epic struggles in a powerful, central government in France under Napoleon. This course proposes not merely a narration of the events of the Revolution but also an in-depth exposure to primary sources: texts, images, and songs of the period. Furthermore, we will engage with the rich and sophisticated historiography of the Revolution, which has made the topic a matter of contemporary debate around the world.

This course then will give students not only a greater understanding of a crucial transformation in world history, but also of why that event remains relevant and crucial, even in twenty-first century America.

Course Requirements
Students are expected to attend class reliably, having done the assigned reading and being prepared to discuss the reading. Each week I will ask you to turn in an informal set of questions, observations or comments on the reading. Class discussion will account for 30% of the semester grade. In addition, there will be two essays based on assigned primary and secondary sources (though research topics are encouraged, if you arrange the topic in consultation with me.) Each essay will account for 35% (for a total of 70%) of the semester grade. There are no in-class exams.
REQUIRED READING: (all available as paperbacks)
  Laurent Dubois, A Colony of Citizens: Revolution & Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean, 1787-1804
  David Bell, The First Total War: Napoleon’s Europe and the Birth of Warfare (2007)
  Rafe Blaufarb, Napoleon: Symbol for an Age (2007)

SUGGESTED READING: (for those new to the topic, choose 1 of these)

Graduate students enrolled in 662 should contact the instructor prior to the start of the fall semester; graduate students will meet with the instructor as a group every second or third week to discuss additional readings, to be placed on reserve.

COURSE SCHEDULE
Week  Date  Topic

1. Aug 27  Why study the “French Revolution”?  
  Heuer, Family and the Nation, 1 - 13

2. Sept 3  Old Regime Society: Land, Wealth, Status  
  Popkin, Short History of the French Revolution, pp. 1 - 21
  Andress, The French Revolution and the People pp. ix – xviii, 1 - 77
  Bell, The First Total War, 21 – 51
  Dubois, Colony of Citizens, 30 – 61

3. Sept 10  The Enlightenment: Reason, Liberty and Nature  
  Hunt, The French Revolution and Human Rights, 1 – 12; 35 – 59
  Bell, First Total War, 54 - 83
  Dubois, Colony of Citizens, 62 - 84

4. Sept 17  18th-Century French Culture: The Birth of the “Public Sphere”  
  Scurr, Fatal Purity, 17 - 60
5. Sept 24  
The Coming of the French Revolution, 1789  

Andress, *French Revolution and the People*, 79 – 133  
Hunt, *French Revolution and Human Rights*, 13 – 15; 60 - 79  

6. Oct 1  
Citizenship, Rights and Political Culture under the Constitutional Monarchy, 1789-1791  

Andress, *French Revolution and the People*, 135 – 167  
Hunt, *French Revolution and Human Rights*, 16 – 31; 80 – 111; 119 - 131  
Dubois, *Colony of Citizens*, 23 – 29, 85 - 123  
Scurr, *Fatal Purity*, 111 – 174

7. Oct 8  
The “Second” Revolution: The Overthrow of the Monarchy and the Founding of the Republic, 1792  

Midterm essay due

8. Oct 15  
War, Resistance and Radicalization, 1792 – 1793  

Andress, *French Revolution and the People*, 169 – 190  
Bell, *First Total War*, 84 - 120  
Scurr, *Fatal Purity*, 177 – 217  
Hunt, *French Revolution and Human Rights*, 132 - 139

9. Oct 22  
Revolutionary Government: Virtue and Terror, 1793-1794  

Andress, *French Revolution and the People*, 191 - 239  
Scurr, *Fatal Purity*, 218 – 360  
Bell, *First Total War*, 120 – 185  
Heuer, *Family and Nation*, 15 - 68  
Dubois, *Colony of Citizens*, 155 – 168

10. Oct 29  
The Search for a Stable Center, 1794-1795  

Andress, *French Revolution and the People*, 241 - 258  
Blaufarb, *Napoleon*, 33 – 36
11. Nov 5  Revolution in the Colonies: Race, Slavery and Liberty

Dubois, *Colony of Citizens*, 171 – 348
Hunt, *French Revolution and Human Rights*, 112 - 118
Blaufarb, *Napoleon*, 158 – 174

12. Nov 12  “Revisionism,” “Brumaire” and the Napoleonic Settlement

Bell, *First Total War*, 186 - 222
Dubois, *Colony of Citizens*, 349 – 422
Blaufarb, *Napoleon*, 1- 19; 35 - 117

13. Nov 19  Family and Nation in the Revolution

Heuer, *Family and Nation*, 69 - 202

14. Nov 26  The Napoleonic Empire and the first “Total War”

Bell, *First Total War*, 222 – 301
Blaufarb, *Napoleon*, 19 – 29; 140 – 157; 175 -194

15. Dec 3  Legacies of the French Revolution

Bell, *First Total War*, 302 – 317
Dubois, *Colony of Citizens*, 423 - 437
Blaufarb, *Napoleon*, 195 – 211

Dec 10  Final Essay Due