Nineteenth Century France focuses on the revolutionary period of modern France. This was a tumultuous and creative time, a time of revolution and reaction, republics and monarchies, liberalism and centralized power. We will study this period in three principal ways: by learning about the various regimes, politics, ideologies, and social patterns that marked the era; by reading documents written during this time and texts composed by some of its principal figures; and by analyzing selected works of present-day historical scholarship that help us understand modern France.

As we build this understanding, our thinking will be guided by the following questions: Why was it so difficult during the century following the French Revolution for France to develop a stable political regime? Why, in this connection, did France irrupt into revolution in response to the problems it faced? And to what extent did the French Revolution define the nature and meaning of the period that followed it? Finally, what were the principal social and political groups that characterized this era, and how did those groups change during the century we consider?

Because the French Revolution is fundamental not just to French history but to world history, we will devote considerable attention to the origins and meaning of this event. We will also consider other nineteenth century revolutions and examine the different social groups—middle classes, workers, peasants, women, men—pivotal to the history of this period. French colonialism will receive significant attention, as will the question of the extent to which France became a modern society in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Since this course is a seminar, discussion is its central feature. Each week you will be asked to talk in class about key aspects of the readings in question. To facilitate that discussion, I will organize the group into study teams of three members each. Every week, one team will be responsible for opening the discussion with a set of questions its members think the whole seminar should consider. The purpose of these questions is not to present the readings but to help create a structure for discussion.

In addition to completing the assigned readings in time for each class, you will be required to write two essays during the semester. For each essay, you will analyze aspects of the course readings in response to a choice of questions or topics I will hand out. The first paper should be 8-10 pages; the second 12-15.

**READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**
(All books are on reserve at Bobst, and many are in the IFS library as well)

The following books can be purchased at the NYU Bookstore (*denotes translation from the French. Those who can read the originals are encouraged to do so):

- **Roger Chartier**, *The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution*
- **Alain Corbin**, *Village of Cannibals* *
- **Laurent Dubois**, *A Colony of Citizens: Revolution and Slave Emancipation in the French Caribbean*
- **David Garioch**, *The Making of Revolutionary Paris*
- **Ruth Harris**, *Lourdes. Body and Spirit in the Secular Age*
- **Peter Jones**, *French Revolution in Social and Political Perspective*
- **Karl Marx**, *Civil War in France: The Paris Commune*
Jeremy Popkin, *History of Modern France*

Stendhal, *The Red and the Black* (GF Flammarion édition available)

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Recollections* (Kessinger, 2007)*

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Writings on Empire and Slavery* *

Emile Zola, *L'Assommoir* (GF Flammarion édition available)

Weekly Topics and Assignments

Week 1 (Sept 3) - Introduction
Jeremy Popkin, *History of Modern France*, chs. 1-4

I. THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Week 2 (Sept. 10) - *Paris in the Eighteenth Century*

Week 3 (Sept. 17) - *The Cultural Origins of The French Revolution*
Chartier, *Cultural Origins of the French Revolution*, chs. 1,2,4,5,7,8
Popkin, *History of Modern France*, chs. 5-7

Week 4 (Sept. 24) - *The French Revolution: Revisionism and its Discontents*
Popkin, chs. 8-9
Edward Berenson, “*The Social Interpretation of the French Revolution*” in Nikki Keddie, ed., *Debating Revolutions* (Blackboard--BB)

Week 5 (Oct. 1) - *Revolutionary Politics and the Terror*
Jones, Sections IV and V

Week 6 (Oct. 8) - *Gender and Politics in the French Revolution*
Jones, chs. 13-15
Lynn Hunt, *Family Romance of the French Revolution*, chs. 1-4 (BB)
Lynn Hunt, *Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution*, ch. 3 (BB)

Week 7 (Oct. 15) - *Empire, Slavery and the French Revolution*
Popkin, ch. 10
Dubois, *A Colony of Citizens*

Week 8 (Oct. 22) - *Assessing the Revolutionary years*
First Paper Due

II. THE LEGACY OF REVOLUTION

Week 9 (Oct. 29) - *The Restoration and July Monarchy: A Classic Literary View*
Popkin, ch. 11-12
Stendhal, *The Red and the Black*
Week 10 (Nov. 5) - *The French Conquest of Algeria*
Tocqueville, *Writings on Empire and Slavery*
Jennifer Pitts, *A Turn to Empire*, ch. 7 (BB)

Week 11 (Nov. 12) - *The Revolution of 1848*
Popkin, ch. 14
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Recollections*, Parts I and II
Joan Wallach Scott, “The Duties of the Citizen: Jeanne Deroin in the Revolution of 1848” in *Only Paradoxes to Offer*, ch. 3 (BB)

III. THE EMERGENCE OF A MODERN FRANCE?

Week 12 (Nov. 19) - *Industrialism and the World of Labor*
Popkin, ch. 15
Zola, *L'Assommoir*

Week 13 (Nov. 26) - *No Class*

Week 14 (Dec. 3) - *Religion and its Discontents*
Harris, *Lourdes*

Week 15 (Dec. 10) - *The Franco-Prussian War and Paris Commune*
Popkin, ch. 16-17
Corbin, *Village of Cannibals*
Marx, *Civil War in France*

Second Paper Due: Friday, December 15