This course explores the French Revolution of 1789, and subsequent French history down to the collapse of the Second Empire and emergence of the Paris Commune in 1871. The drama of nineteenth-century French history is that of a post-revolutionary society, a polity permanently engaged with the problem of creating new foundations, of reconstructing itself in the aftermath of the trauma and elation of revolutionary change. This is a story of spectacular failure and less obvious successes; both sides of the ledger will receive due attention. Among the specific topics touched on are the origins of the Revolution of 1789, and the nature of revolutionary transformation; the serial attempts to construct a stable political order (the Napoleonic regime, the Bourbon Restoration, the July Monarchy, the Second Republic, and the Second Empire); and the revolutions that ended these experiments. Some of the key themes of the course will be: class formation, and the way class tensions informed nineteenth-century French political and cultural life; the role of political violence, both in its civil dimension and in its colonial and imperialist guises; the intersection of politics and religion that so marked nineteenth-century French life; and the critical role of gender in efforts to stabilize and contest social and political authority across the entire period between 1789 and 1871.

Readings Available for Purchase

David A. Bell, *The First Total War* (Houghton Mifflin).
Alain Corbin, *The Village of Cannibals* (Harvard UP).
Caroline Ford, *Divided Houses: Religion and Gender in Modern France* (Cornell UP).
Timothy Tackett, *When the King Took Flight* (Harvard UP).
Guidelines and Grading Policy:

PARTICIPATION: 40% of your course grade will be based on class participation. In working out this portion of your final grade, your attendance in class and the quality of your interventions (both questions and comments) will be important. Your principal responsibility is to complete the reading assignments on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. Some of the required reading for the course is available through the course Blackboard site rather than in assigned books. Such texts are marked on the syllabus as [Blackboard] readings. In addition, some of the readings are hyperlinked to the course syllabus. To access these readings, right click on the link and select “Open Hyperlink.”

PAPERS: You will be asked to write two papers, (3-4000 words in length), based on the materials you are reading for the course. Paper topics will be distributed in class. Each paper will count for 30% of your course grade. Due dates are in the syllabus.

Schedule of Course Readings

Sept 4 Introduction

No assigned reading.

Sept 11 Origins of the French Revolution


Sept 18 The Experience of Revolution


Timothy Tackett, When the King Took Flight (Cambridge, MA, 2003).

Sept 25 The Radicalization of the Revolution


Albert Soboul, The Sans-Culottes: The Popular Movement and Revolutionary Government 1793-1794, 1-71 [Blackboard]
Oct 2 Gender and the Closing of the Revolution


Suzanne Desan, “‘War between Brothers and Sisters’: Inheritance Law and Gender Politics in Revolutionary France,” *French Historical Studies* 20 (1997): 597-634

Oct 9 The Invention of Modern War?


David A. Bell, *The First Total War*, 1-20, 84-317.

Oct 16 The Bourbon Restoration


Oct 19 *** FIRST PAPER DUE ***

Oct 23 Toward the Industrious Society


**Oct 30 The 1848 Revolution**


http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-8762%28199912%29104%3A5%3C1461%3AGVATPI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0

**Nov 6 Family, Privacy, Sexuality**


**Nov 13 Anticlericalism, Laïcité, and the Feminization of Religion**


**Nov 20 Imperialism and the Algerian Question**


http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0034-6705%28196307%2925%3A3%3C362%3ATOA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-1


Jennifer Pitts, *A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France* (Princeton, 2005), 204-39 [Blackboard]

**Nov 27 The Second Empire and the Franco-Prussian War**


Alain Corbin, *The Village of Cannibals* (Harvard UP).

**Dec 4 The Paris Commune**


**Dec 11 No Class Meeting**

**Dec 17 *** FINAL PAPER DUE *****