HI2108 Culture and Politics in Europe 1700-1815

Course co-ordinator: Dr. Joseph Clarke (Dept. of History)
Contact details: joseph.clarke@tcd.ie Room 3153
Teaching Staff: Dr. Joseph Clarke, Dr. Linda Kiernan
Duration: One semester (Michaelmas term)
Assessment: Essays, one 2 hour exam.
Weighting: 10 ECTS
Lecture Times:
Thursday, 11.00 – 12.00, room 3074
Friday, 12.00 – 1.00, Edmund Burke Theatre

Course Description: The ‘long eighteenth-century’ that led from Louis XIV to Napoleon was an age of unprecedented cultural and political change. In order to understand the nature and extent of this change, this course charts the emergence of new ways of thinking about science, society and the self during the Enlightenment and explores how these ideas contributed to reshaping the state during the Revolutionary crisis that convulsed Europe from 1789 on. By examining the evolution of attitudes towards gender, death and family life, the course also explores how perceptions of private life and popular culture changed over the 18th century.
**Learning Outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an informed understanding of the main themes and developments in the political and cultural history of Europe from 1700 to 1815.
- Engage critically with the scholarly literature on this subject.
- Evaluate a range of methodological and theoretical approaches to the study of 18th century political and cultural history.
- Identify and interpret a range of relevant primary sources.
- Communicate their conclusions clearly in both written and verbal contexts.

**Course Structure:**

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17 Terror is the Order of the Day
18 Living the Revolution. (Dr. Kiernan)

Week 11
19 Ending the Revolution
20 Napoleon, Empire and Europe

Week 12
21 Legacies of Revolution
22 Conclusions

Recommended Reading

Some General Introductions to 18th and 19th century European History.


___ *Old Régime France: 1648-1788*, (2001)


1 What is Cultural History?

P. Burke, *History and Social Theory*, (1992)

___ *Varieties of cultural history*, (1997)


___ *The Kiss of Lamourette: Reflections in Cultural History*, (1990)


2 The Culture of the Court and the Culture of Custom


Peter Burke, *The Fabrication of Louis XIV* (1992)


3 From the Republic of Letters to the Public Sphere

T. Blanning, *The Culture of Power and the Power of Culture*, esp. Part II
C. Calhoun, ed. *Habermas and the Public Sphere*, (1992)
‘The Public Sphere and Public Opinion.’
R. van Dulmen, *The Society of the Enlightenment: the rise of the middle class and
enlightenment culture in Germany*, (1992)
Anne Goldgar, *Impolite Learning: Conduct and Community in the Republic of
D. Goodman, ‘Enlightenment Salons: The Convergence of Female and Philosophic
___ *The Republic of Letters: A Cultural History of the French Enlightenment*
(1994)
J. Habermas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: an Enquiry into a
Category of Bourgeois Society*, (1989)
M. Jacob, *The radical enlightenment: Pantheists, Freemasons and Republicans*,
(1981)
___ *Living the enlightenment: freemasonry and politics in eighteenth-century
Europe*, (1991)
___ ‘The Mental Landscape of the Public Sphere: A European Perspective’, *18th
S. Kale, *French Salons: high society and political sociability from the Old Regime to
S. Maza, ‘Women, the bourgeoisie and the Public Sphere: a response to Daniel
Gordon and David Bell’, *French Historical Studies*, 17, (1991-2)
D. Roche, *Les Républicains des Lettres: Gens de Culture et Lumières au XVIIIe
Siècle*, (1988)

4  ‘What is Enlightenment?’
D. Brewer, *The Discourse of Enlightenment in Eighteenth Century France: Diderot
and the Art of Philosophising*, (1993)
E. Cassirer, *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment*, (1951)
N. Hampson, The Enlightenment, (1968)
D. Roche, France in the Enlightenment, (1998)
F. Venturi, Utopia and Reform in the Enlightenment, (1971)

5 Enlightenment in Action: the Encyclopédie
M. Cranston, Philosophers and Pamphleteers: Political Theories of the Enlightenment (1986)
R. Grimsley, Jean d’Alembert: 1717-1783, (1963)
J. Lough, The Encyclopédie, (1971)
J. Proust, Diderot et l’Encyclopédie, (1967)
A. M. Wilson, Diderot, (1972)
‘If God did not exist’: Believers and Unbelievers in 18th century Europe

J. McManners, *Reflections at the death bed of Voltaire: the art of dying in eighteenth
century France*, (1975)


‘In every respect different’: The Enlightenment and Gender


___  *The Enlightenment and Its Shadows*, (1990)

8 The Enlightenment Deified: Writers and their Readers in the 18th century.

See the entries on the Public Sphere and the following:


T. Blanning, *The Culture of Power..., Part II*

A. Brookner, *Greuze: the rise and fall of an eighteenth-century phenomenon*, (1972)


H. Honour, *Neo-Classicism*, (1968)


J. A. Leith, *The idea of art as propaganda in France 1750-1799: a study in the history of ideas*, (1965)


___ *Writer and Public in France from the Middle Ages to the Present Day*, (1976)


9 The Politics of Enlightenment I: Absolutism and Utopia.


H. Mitchell, ‘Politics in the service of knowledge: the debate over the administration of medicine and welfare in late 18th century France’, *Social History*, (1981)


10 **The Politics of Enlightenment II: The Enemies of Enlightenment**

See the above and:


11 **An Age of Reason? Pseudo-Science and the Sentimental in the 18th century**

A. Brookner, *Greuze: the rise and fall of an eighteenth-century phenomenon*, (1972)


12 Living, Loving and Dying in the Age of Enlightenment


P. Burke, *Popular Culture in Early Modern Europe*, (1978 and subsequent eds.)


___ *The Making of Revolutionary Paris*, (Berkeley, 2002)


___ *La Mort et l’Occident de 1300 à Nos Jours*, (Paris, 1983)
**Revolutionary Europe**

There are many good introductory surveys of the French Revolution, and you should have a look at a selection of them to familiarise yourself with both the events and the range of interpretations that have been made of them. Among the best are:

D. M. G. Sutherland, *France 1789-1815: Revolution and Counter-Revolution*, (1985)

13 **Do Books make Revolutions?**

___


T. Tackett, *Becoming a Revolutionary: the deputies of the French National Assembly and the Emergence of a Revolutionary Political Culture (1789-1790)*, (1996)

14 **The End of the Old Order**


___ ‘Was there an Aristocratic Reaction in Pre-Revolutionary France’, *Past & Present*, (1972)


15 **Remaking France**


G. Lefebvre, *The Great Fear of 1789*, (1973)
T. Tackett, *Becoming a Revolutionary: The Deputies of the French National Assembly and the Emergence of A Revolutionary Culture (1789-1790)*, (1996)

16 Counter-Revolution at Home and Abroad

D. Sutherland, ‘The Social Origins of Counter-Revolution in Western France’, *Past and Present*, 99,
___ *When the King took Flight*, (2003)
C. Tilly, *The Vendée*, (1964)

17 Terror is the Order of the Day

___ ‘The Revolutionary Mentality in France, 1793-4’, *History*, (1957)
___ *The Life and Opinions of Maximilien Robespierre*, (1974)

18 Living the Revolution
16


19 Ending the Revolution
___ France under the Directory, (1975)

20 Napoleon: The Empire and Europe
M. Broers, Europe under Napoleon, 1799-1815, (1996)

21 Legacies of Revolution

The Revolution and the Family


M. Perrot, ed. *A history of private life: vol. 4, From the fires of revolution to the Great War*, (1990)


The Revolution and the Nation


J. J. Sheehan, ‘What is German History? Reflections on the Role of the Nation in German History and Historiography,’ *Journal of Modern History* (1981)


A. Smith, *Theories of Nationalism*, (1973)


### 22 Conclusions

All of the above and:


P. Lehning, *Peasant and French: Cultural Contact in Rural France during the Nineteenth Century*, (1995)

### Suggested Essay Titles

1. Assess Habermas’ argument that the public sphere was ‘the ruling authorities’ adversary’.

2. How did the relationship between artists, writers and the public change over the course of the eighteenth century?

3. Compare and contrast the contribution of two of the following to the circulation of enlightened ideas in eighteenth century Europe: the salon, the academy, the reading room and the Masonic lodge.

4. How did the *Encyclopédie* aim to ‘change the common way of thinking’?

5. ‘The *philosophes* aimed to disenchant the world.’ Discuss.

6. Did eighteenth century Europe experience a revolution in reading?

7. Was there any place for women in the Republic of Letters?

8. Is a history of popular culture possible in the eighteenth century?

9. Had the French monarchy been desacralised by 1789, and if so, how?
‘Calling what happened in 1789 and after a “bourgeois revolution” is at worst misleading, and at best imprecise.’ Discuss.

‘The Terror was merely 1789 with a higher body count.’ Discuss.

Why did the Revolution provokes such intense opposition either in France or across Europe?

Did war revolutionise the Revolution?

Did Napoleon end the Revolution?