

## Independent Readings in the French Revolution

Summer 2024: 4 or 6 or 8 credits

Faculty: Dr. Stacey R. Davis, European historian

This a fun, self-paced reading and writing course that will take you through the Enlightenment and the French Revolution in 5 units, if you are enrolled for 4 credits, with additional assignments for those enrolled for 6 or 8 credits.

This class is for students who are 100% off-campus, and **each student works at their own pace throughout the summer**. There are NO MANDATORY synchronous meetings (ie – no required live zoom sessions) for this class.

### How the class is structured:

For all students, the core of the class (and the first 4 credits worth of material) is structured as 5 distinct "Units," each with readings and a written response assignment. You can complete one unit each week to finish the course in 5 weeks, or take longer if you wish, as long as you finish the course by September 5th. If you want to stretch the work out over the entire summer, you should complete one assignment every two weeks.

If you wish, you can wait to begin work on this class during the second summer session (which begins July 31). Also, if you go on vacation, or otherwise need to pause your progress on the assignments for a week or two during the summer, that is ok, as well. Just be sure you keep me apprised via email of the schedule you plan on following for your work in this class.

### What's the difference in work-load between 4, 6 and 8 credits?

The 5 Units described above are the work for the first 4 credits of the class. Students who are enrolled for 6 credits will write 2 additional short essays, and students enrolled for 8 credits will write a library research paper on a topic of their choice, besides completing the 5 units described above. There will be a separate "Unit" with the 6-credit paper topics (you'll write the first paper after you've completed "Unit 3"). I'll email 8-credit students separately in a few days with information about the research paper they'll be writing for their second 4 credits of the class. (Please note: 8-credit students do not need to write the 2 extra essays that are assigned for the 6-credit students). There are complete details about the 4, 6 and 8-credit options in the Syllabus on the Canvas site.

I've been teaching the Enlightenment and the French Revolution at Evergreen for 25 years (my B.A. is from Princeton University, I received my Ph.D. from Yale University in French history, and my own research is on political prisoners in 19th century France) and this is the fifteenth year that I've taught this specific independent reading summer course. It can be a really fascinating course for students, and also one that fits your individual schedules well.

So, please let me know if you have any questions I can answer about the class work or assignments. I'll be available to arrange for an individual zoom meeting anytime you'd like; just email me at [davisst@evergreen.edu](mailto:davisst@evergreen.edu) to set up a time/date. If you wish to talk via phone, we could set that up, too. Otherwise, have a great summer, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

All the best,  
Stacey

Dr. Stacey R. Davis  
[davisst@evergreen.edu](mailto:davisst@evergreen.edu)

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### **Class Description:**

Students will work independently, studying the social, political, gender, and intellectual trajectories of the French Revolution from 1789 through the Terror and the Napoleonic Empire. To understand the origins of the Revolution, students will read philosophy and political theory from Enlightenment authors like Voltaire, Rousseau, and Montesquieu. Students will share a reading list in common and have the option to contribute to book discussions as a group via Canvas and with the faculty member. Students enrolled for 8 credits will complete a library research paper on one aspect of the Enlightenment or the French Revolution.

You can work independently and/or with other students via the on the class Canvas web-site. There are no mandatory zoom or other synchronous sessions. The full syllabus, schedule, as well as reading and written assignments, will be available on the Canvas site. As your professor, I am available to meet with you via zoom to answer questions, help you figure out some of the more complicated ideas in the readings, or give mini lectures if you'd like.

### **Reading Lists:**

**Note: All texts will be available electronically, either as pdfs on the website, or via the Evergreen library homepage. To find a book on the library homepage, type in the author and title of the book, and make sure you click "Electronic Resources" when you do your search.**

#### **For All Students (4, 6 and 8 credits):**

Hunt & Censer, eds. *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution* (1 chapter each week) - book to read through the library or to purchase

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (for week 1) - book to read through the library

Montesquieu, short excerpts from *The Spirit of the Laws* and *The Persian Letters* (pdf) (for week 1)

Georges Lefebvre, *The Coming of the French Revolution* (for week 2) - book to read through the library or to purchase

Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution* (for week 3) - book to read through the library or to purchase

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Dena Goodman, ed., excerpts from *Marie-Antoinette: Writings on the Body of a Queen* (pdf) (for week 3)

Antoine de Baecque, excerpts from *Glory and Terror: Seven Deaths Under the French Revolution* (pdf) (for week 4)

William Vaughan and Helen Weston, eds., excerpts from *David's "The Death of Marat"* (pdf) (week 4)

Olwen Hufton, *Women and the Limits of Citizenship in the French Revolution* (for week 5) - book to read through the library or to purchase

### **Additional Readings for 6 and 8 credit students:**

Michael Walzer, *Regicide and Revolution: Speeches at the Trial of Louis XVI* (pdf) (for week 3)

François Furet, *Interpreting the French Revolution* (pdf) (for week 5) - excerpts

Plus, specific research and readings linked to each student's individual research project.

## **WHAT WORK WILL BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE VARIOUS CREDITS?**

**4-credits:** To earn 4 credits during second summer session, students will do all the 4-credit readings [which are broken into 5 units]; complete weekly workshop written assignments (i.e. – submit short answers to specific workshop questions); and write a final exam (two hours'-worth of writing, which will be open-book and done at home). Earning 4-credits in 5 weeks in summer assumes you'll study 20 hours total per week, or you can spread the work out over the full 10 weeks of the two summer sessions. You can pause your summer work as needed to take a vacation or for job/family obligations, as long as you finish the work by the end of summer school.

Each Unit of work is listed under the Modules tab. Each Unit should take about one week to complete. There are 5 Units in total for the 4-credit class.

**6-credits:** Complete all the 4-credit tasks plus write 2 short (3-4 page typed) essays on the class readings. Topics for the 2 short essays will be available on this canvas site after you have completed Unit 3.

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**8-credits:** Complete all the 4-credit tasks (you won't be writing the 2 essays that 6-credit students write). Plus, read and answer short workshop questions on the extra 8-credit class readings. Plus, research and write a 7-10 page essay on a topic on the Enlightenment, French Revolution or Napoleonic era of your choice (with my approval - topics can focus on social, cultural, political, religious, gender, or intellectual history, or art history or literature, and could include international issues or the Haitian Revolution, if you'd like). The essay will be supported by at least 7 outside sources (beyond class readings), three of which need to be scholarly journal articles (a great database to search for articles is Historical Abstracts, available from the Evergreen Library website under "databases".) There will be separate information and assignment pages for this independent essay project under the Modules tab.