



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Enlightenment Thought and the French Revolution - 39496

Last update 07-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Netta Green

Coordinator Email: netta.green@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Netta Green

Course/Module description:

This course will examine the social, cultural, intellectual, economic, and political history of France and its empire from the end of the Old Regime through the Napoleonic period. We will explore monarchical absolutism, the Atlantic slave trade, and the Enlightenment movement, including its key thinkers, institutions, and emerging ideologies, to understand the origins of the French Revolution. The course will then investigate the tumultuous events that followed, including the Haitian Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, analyzing various historical interpretations of these radical transformations. A central focus will be the relationship between the Enlightenment and the French Revolution, asking whether Enlightenment ideas about natural rights and liberty inspired mass action or did it provide post-facto justification for the 1789 uprising. Throughout, we will examine the political legacy of these revolutions, which introduced modern political concepts such as human rights, nationalism, welfare, democracy, terror, liberalism, and the very idea of revolution itself.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

By the end of this course, students will be able to describe and conceptualize the key events that occurred in France between 1660 and 1815, placing them within a broader historical context. Additionally, students will develop the skills to analyze primary sources, evaluate historiographical arguments, and articulate their own original ideas about the course topics, both orally and in writing.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

List of Topics:

- 1. Absolutism and the Old Regime*
- 2. French Society under the Old Regime*

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3. *The Atlantic Trade*
 4. *The Enlightenment*
 5. *Salons, Coffee Shops, and the Public Sphere*
 6. *The Immediate Causes of the French Revolution*
 7. *The Constitutional Monarchy*
 8. *The Terror*
 9. *The Haitian Revolution*
 10. *Napoleon's Rise*
 11. *The Napoleonic Wars*
 12. *The Fall of the Napoleonic Empire*
 13. *Conclusion: The French Revolution and the Birth of Modern Politics*

Required Reading:

TBD

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 50 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Mid-terms exams 25 %

Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 15 %

Additional information: