Syllabus

LIB205AO1
Absolutism to Revolution
TH 16:00-17:30 (N4)
Fall 2005
Dr. Don Dombowsky
Office Hours: Thursday 14:00-15:00 (Div. 12)
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Course Description

In the 18th century the king died in the name of the social contract. In this course we will discuss the destruction of absolutist monarchist political authority in Europe at the hands of populist revolutionary forces. Our discussion will traverse the Age of Enlightenment, the years of the French Revolution and the revolutions of 1830 and 1848. During this period the fundamental issue was the legitimacy of power. In this course we will see how this issue was conceived by both revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries. Our topic—Absolutism to Revolution—will be considered from the vantage points of political theory, history, music, art, philosophy and literature.

September
13: Historical Overview: 1748-1789 (Dr. Cristian Berco)
15: Theory of Revolution

October
4-6: Kant, “An Answer to the Question: What Is Enlightenment?”; “To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch”*
11: No Class
13-18: Mozart (Dr. Jack Eby)
25-27: Cancelled
28: Art and the French Revolution (Dr. Claude Lacroix). MOLO10 13:00-16:00

November
1-3: Hegel on the French Revolution and Napoleon Bonaparte* (Dr. Bruce Gilbert)
8-10-15: Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France
17-22: Heinrich Heine’s Political Poetry* (Dr. Sophie Boyer)
24-29: Marx, Engels, The Communist Manifesto

December
1: Revolutions of 1830 and 1848

Course Requirements

Research Assignment (political parties and organizations): 10% (Sept 8, due: Sept. 15)
Take-Home Exam on Rousseau: 30% (Sept. 29, due: Oct. 6)
Take-Home Exam on Kant and Robespierre: 20% (Nov. 1, due: Nov. 8th)
Take-Home Exam on Burke and Hegel: 20% (Nov. 24, due: Dec. 1)
Take-Home Exam on Heine and Marx: 20% (Dec. 1, due: Dec. 8th)

Required Texts
Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France (Oxford University Press, 1999)
Course pack*